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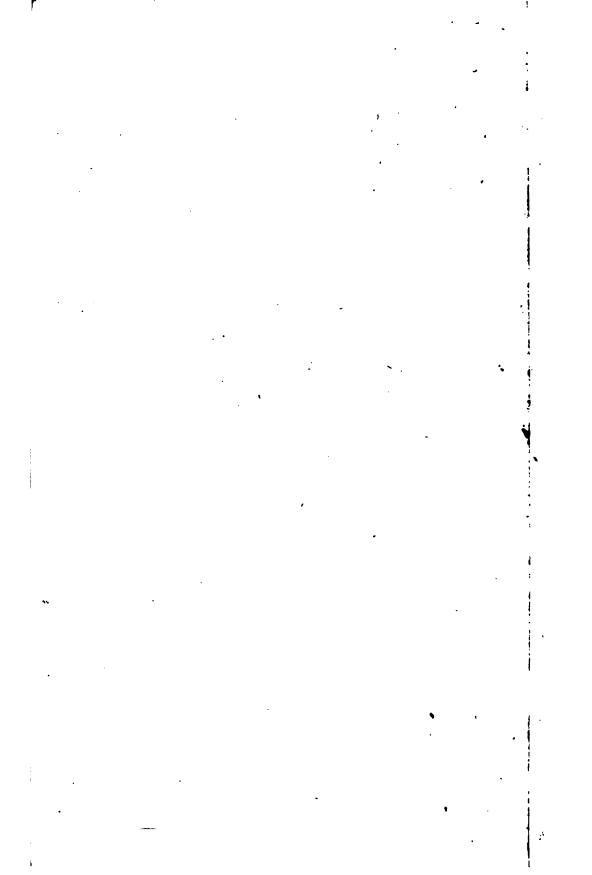
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EC.

DIGEST

OF THE

Laws of England

RESPECTING

REAL PROPERTY.

By WILLIAM CRUISE, OF LINCOLN'S INN, BSQ. BARRISTER AT LAW.

VOLUME THE SIXTH.

CONTAINING

Title 38. DEVISE.

FOR J. BUTTERWORTH, FLEET-STREET,

J. COOKE, DUBLIN.

1806.

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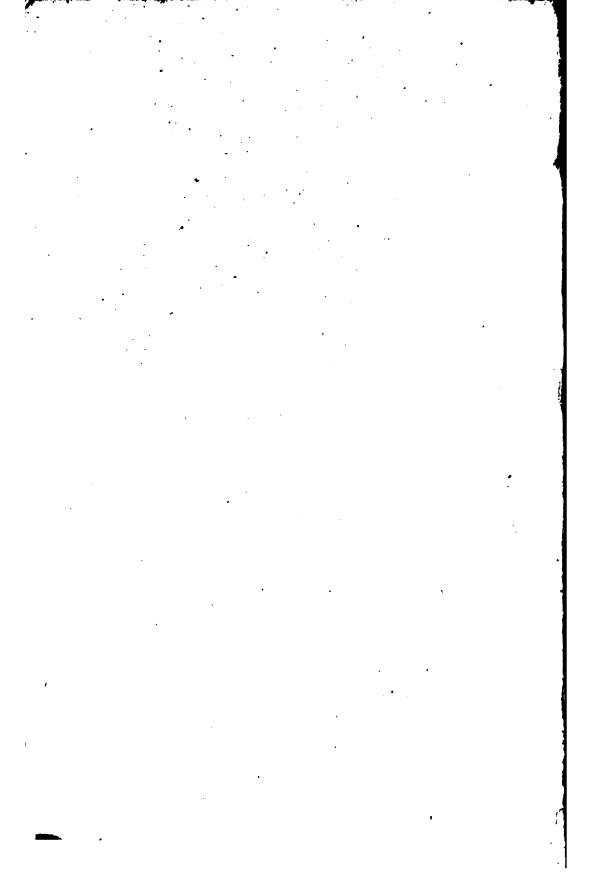
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13

14 ibid.

leote,





CONTENTO	Page
9. Ideots, and Persons of non-sane Memory	- 14
10. Married Women -	- 15
13. Removal of Disabilities does not establish a Will	- ibid.
16. Who may be Devilees -	- 16
17. Infants in ventre fa mère -	- ibid.
19. Married Women	- 17
20. Aliens -	- ibid.
21. Bastards	- ibid.
22. Persons uncertain	- ibid.
23. Bodies Politie cannot be Devisees -	- ibid.
CHAP. III.	
What may be devised.	
1. Effates in Fee Simple	- 19.
4. Estates for Life -	- 20
5. Chattels real	- ibid.
6. Trust Estates	- ibid.
7. Equity of Redemption -	- ibid.
8. Mortgages -	- 21
9. Advowsons	- ibid.
ri. Rents -	- ibid.
13. Tithes - •	- 22
14. Franchises	- ibid.
26. An Authority	- ibid.
17. Contingent Estates and Interests -	- 23
22. A Joint Tenancy not devisable	- 27
25. The Testator must be seised	- 28
28. And must continue to be seised -	- 29
29. Exception	- 50
.32. Lands contracted for are devisable -	- 31
39. And Terms for Years, acquired after the Will	35
CHAP. IV.	
Of Devises of Copyholds.	
5 1. Copybolds devitable by Surrender to Uses	- 36
14. A Surrender to the Use of a Will bars an Intail	- 40
16. An equitable Interest is devisable without a Surrender	41
19. An equitable Intail barred by a Will	- 42.
§ 21	. Where

		Page
§ 21. Where Surrender will be supplied -	-	42
26. A Surrender not supplied where Freeholds pass	•	44
CHAP. V.		
Of the Solemnities necessary to a Devise.		
§ 1. Statute of Frauds -		47
2. What is required by this statute -	•	48
3. Writing	-	ibid.
7. Signing	•	49
14. Attestation by Witnesses -	•	52
19. Wills and Codicils must be separately attested	-	54
24. The Witnesses must see the whole Will		57
26. And must attest in the Presence of the Testator	-	60
35. The Witnesses may attest at different Times		64
38. Who may be Witnesses -	٠	66
43. Publication	•	68
46. A Person cannot empower himself to give Lands by		,
a Will not duly attested -	-	69
48. Wills that charge Lands are within the Statute	•	7 I
49. Exception.—Codicil giving Legacies -	•	ibid.
51. Wills of trust are within the Statute -	•	72
53. And of Mortgages and Equities of Redemption	٠	73
54. And of Money to be laid out in Lands -	-	ibid.
55. And Wills made Abroad -	- ;	ibi d.
56. Wills of Terms for Years are not within the Statute	i	ibid.
57. Exception.—Terms to attend	- 3	ibid.
59. Wills of Copyholds not within the Statute	•	74
65. Wills may be proved in Chancery	-	76
CHAP. VI.		
Of the Revocation of Devifes.		. '
1. All Devises are revocable		78
2. Statute of Frauds	J	79
3. Modes of revoking a Will of Lands	-	80
4. A subsequent Will	. i	bid.
5. A fubsequent Will not always a Revocation		. 81
J4- A Codicil is fometimes a Revocation -	_	88
15. Two Wills of the same Date are void -	- i	ibid.
-		5 A
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		_

vi

§ 16. A written Declaration -	- 89
21. Such Declaration must be signed by the Testator	91
23. Cancelling	- 92
26. It must be by the Testator or by his Direction	- 94
28. An Intention to caucel is sufficient	- ibid.
30. An Obliteration of Part does not revoke the Whole	96
35. Cancelling one Part revokes the other	- 100
36. Implied Revocations -	- ibid.
37. Marriage, and Birth of a Child -	- 101
44. Marriage, and Birth of a Posthumous Child	- 103
47. A Woman's Will revoked by Marriage	- 105
48. Alteration of the Estate	- ibid.
49. Alienation to a Stranger	- 106
55. An intended Alienation	- 108
57. Alienation to the Use of the Devisor -	- ibid.
61. Alienation to strengthen the Devise	- 110
64. Fine and Recovery	- ibid.
71. Modern Doctrine of prefumptive Revocations	- 114
74. Parol Evidence not admiffible	- 119
76. A fraudulent Conveyance is not a Revocation	- 121
78. Nor an Alteration of the Quality of an Estate	- ibìd.
81. Nor the Change of a Truftee -	- 122
84. Nor a Partition -	- 123
86. Unless it extends to other Things	- ibid.
88. Of partial Revocations	- 124
95. Revocations of Leaseholds -	- 125
102. Revocations of Copyholds -	- 127
CHAP. VII.	
,	
Of the Republication of a Devise.	
§ 1. Nature and Effect of	- 129
2 Re-execution is a Republication	- ibid.
3. And also a Codicil	- 139
11. Unless confined to Lands devised by the Will	1- 137
14. A Surrender of a Copyhold to the Use of a Will	- 139
16. Cancelling a fecond Will republishes the first	- 141
18. But a Will, once cancelled, must be re-executed	· 142
	•

CHAP,

2 4 § 67. Ren	nai	nder
64. All 1 am worth		196
60. Messuage and House	` :	ibid.
58. All my Rents		195
47. Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments -	•	191
39. What Words necessary to describe the Things devised		188.
36. And also, "Sons, Children," &c.	-	187
33. "Iffue" is a good Description -	-	186
29. The Word "Heir" is fometimes a good Description	•	184
24. What Words necessary to describe the Devisees	-	183
17. Devifes by Implication	_	181
6. Words of Advice or Defire .	-	176
2. What Words create a Devile -	_	175
Devisees and the Things devised.		
Construction.—What Words create a Devise, and describe	the	•
снар. х.		
26. Exception.—Where there is a latent Ambiguity	•	165
23. No Averment allowed to explain Wills -	-	ibid.
22. Contradictory Devises	-	164
18. Confiruction Cy Pres	-	ibid.
17. A Perpetuity cannot be created by Will	-	16 t
4. Rules of Construction -	-	157
§ 1. No particular Form necessary -	_	156
Of the Construction of Devises. General Rules.		
CHAP. IX.		
28. Fifth.—Uncertainty	•	155
19. Fourth Where the Devisee dies before the Devisor		ibid.
17. Third.—Where there has been Fraud	-	150
16. Second Devises to charitable Uses -	-	149
11. A Difference in the Estate renders the Devise good		147
9. The Devisee must be sole Heir	-	146
4. Though charged with Debts, &c.		145
\$ 2. First.—Devise to the Heir at Law -	-	144
Of void Devises.		
CHAP. VIII.		Page

67. Remainder and Refidue of all my Effects	•	197
71. Where general Words are not reftrained	•	201
74. General Words confined to Freeholds -	-	204
88. What Words necessary to pass Copyholds		
93. What Words necessary to pass Reversions	-	220
108. What Words pass Mortgages, and Lands held	in	
Truft for others	-	229
		_
CHAP. XI.		
Confirution.—What Words create an Estate in F	æ.	
§ 3. Any Words, shewing an Intention to give the who	ale	
Interest	-	237
22. Effect of an Introductory Clause -	•	243
25. Effect of the Word Estate	•	244
37. All the Rest and Residue of my Estate -	-	250.
43. Whatever elfe I have not disposed of -	•	25 I
45. Remainder	•	252
47. Reversion	-	ibid.
49. Devile, on Condition of paying a Sum of Money	, -	253
54. Devise, charged with Debts and Legacies -	•	25 5
60. Devife, charged with an annual Payment for ever	•	258
64. Devise, charged with an annual Payment for Life	-	259
71. ExceptionWhere there is a Charge on the Re	nts	
and Profits	-	264
72. Devile to Trustees, for Purposes requiring a Fee	-	ibid.
76. A general Devise passes the whole Interest in a Ch	attel	266
		'
CHAP. XII.		
Construction.—What Words create an Estate Ta	i Z,	•
1 1. Any Words, denoting an Intention to give an Eft	ate	•
-Tail	•	· 268
5. Heirs qualified by fublequent Words	+	270
18. A Devile to A. and his Heirs, with a Remaine	der	•
over to a collateral Heir	-	277
24. The Words, "Iffue, Children," &c.	_	280
30. An Estate Tail may arise by Implication -	-	282
	ý a	4. A

ix

§ 52. Where the Word " Issue" is used with Words of	f
Limitation	- 356
60. Where a Trust is created, and a Conveyance directe	
69. Where the Estates are of different Natures	- 378
73. Case of Perrin v. Blake	- 380
75. Conclusion	- 399
CHAP. XV.	•
Confirmation What Words create a Joint-Tenancy, or Ten	iancy in
Common, and Cross-Remainders.	•
§ 1. What Words create a Joint-Tenancy	- 404
9. What Words create a Tenancy in common	- 408
25. What Words create Cross-Remainders	- 414
29. Not to be implied between more than Two	415
36. But this doctrine has been altered -	- 418
CHAP. XVI.	
Construction What Words create a Condition, and make Lo	ands Tiable
to Debts, and enable Persons to sell Lands.	
§ 1. What Words create a Condition	- 428
4. What Words make Lands liable to Debts	429
13. What Words enable Persons to sell Lands	435
CHAP. XVII.	
Executory Devises.—Devise over after a Devise in Fee-Si	mple.
	440
2. Devise over, after a Devise in Fee	441
9. Though the First Estate be not vested -	443
11. No Devise is deemed executory, which can be sup-	
ported as a Remainder	444
13. An Executory Devise cannot be barred -	ibid.
16. Within what Time an Executory Devise must vest	445
22. A Devise, after a general Failure of Heirs or Issue,	
is too remote	449
23. The Words "dying without leaving any Issue," re-	
ftrained to the Death of the Person	ibid.
26. Curtefy attaches on the First Estate -	451
	CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.	Page
Executory Devise.—Devise of a Freehold Estate to commence in .	Future.
§ 1. Devise of a Freehold Estate to commence in Futuro 6. Devises of this Sort sometimes supported as Remain-	454
ders - 12. A Devise of this Sort must vest within the Time	4 5 6
prescribed above 17. A Devise, after a general Failure of Heirs or Issue,	459
is too remote	462
21. Exceptions.—1st, A Devise of a Reversion .	465
26. 2d, A Devise in Default of Issue of the Deviser - 28. 3d, A Devise over for Life, on Failure of Issue of	473
the Devisee	474
29. 4th, Where an Estate Tail is raised by Implication	ibid.
CHAP. XIX.	
Executory Devises of Terms for Years.	
1. A Bequest over of a Term for Years was formerly void	476
2. But such Bequest is now good	477
5. And also a similar Declaration of the Trust of a Term	478
6. Though to a Person not in Esse, or not ascertained	ibid.
9. The Devisee for Life cannot bar the Devise over	479
12. Within what Time an Executory Bequest of a Term	
must vest	480
13. Where limited after a general Failure of Issue, is void	ibid.
16. Such Limitations cannot be supported as Remainders 17. Where the Failure of Issue is confined to a Life or	481
Lives in being, &c, it is good	483
33. The Words, "dying without Iffue," fometimes re-	
strained to the Death of a Person in Esse	489
29. No Distinction between Words giving an express	
Effate Tail, or by Implication	495
31. Nor between a Devise for Life and an indefinite Devise	497
33. An Executory Devise for Life, after a general Failure	
of Issue, is good	497

CHAP. XX.	Page
Other Matters relating to Executory Devises,	
f 1. Where One Limitation is Executory, all the subse-	
quent ones are so likewise	499
5. A preceding Executory Limitation may be uncertain,	
when a subsequent One may be certain	501
11. A preceding Executory Limitation is not a Condition	-
Précedent	504
17. Limitations over, after an Executory Devile of the	
whole Intereft, fometimes good	507
22. Distinction between the Cases, where a subsequent	
Limitation may become good, and where not -	512
24. A Limitation, which was originally a contingent	•
Remainder, may take effect as an Executory	
Devise	513
29. Distinction between Executory Devises per Verba de	,
Præfenti, and per Verba de Futuro	517
34. The Freehold descends, in the meantime, to the	•
Heir	519
37. And also the intermediate Profits	ibid.
40. A Devife of the Residue will pass such Profits -	520
43. Executory Interests are devisable	521
51. Descendible and transmissible to Heirs and Exe-	•
cutors	523
54. The Court of Chancery will prevent Waste	524
55. Of Trufts of accumulation	ibid.
The state of the s	

INDEX TO CASES

IN THE

SIXTH VOLUME.

	A	Page	Page
A BNEY D.	Miller -	126	Barnes v. Crowe 133. 136. 139
A Acherley	v. Vernon, 3:	1.50	Barry v. Edgeworth - 246
130. 1	134, 135, 136	137	
Ackland v. Ack		255	
Addis v. Clemer	at 206. 209.	212.	v. Norton - 17
	-	215	Bateman v. Bateman - 436
Ager v. Pool		320	
Allanson v. Clith	herow -	289	
Allen v. Heber	-	146	
Andrew v South		263	
v. Stonl		240	
Andrews v. Full		505	Bertie v Falkland (Ld.) - 164
Anonymous 21.	64. 176. 280	. 301	Bebb v. Thomas - 94
Anfley v. Chapt	man -	315	
Archer's Cafe		353	
Arnald v. Arna			Bland v. Bland - 177
Ashton v. Ashto Atherton v. Py		373	
Atkinfon v. Hu		423	- 1 (%) M
Atkyns v. Atky		492	
Attorney General	nle Barnes	225	la 4 0 1 1
Attorney Genera	a V. Dalues	55	Brady v. Cubitt - 102. 104. 120
	- v. Duner 23.	3,234 . 100	Braybroke v. Inskip - 233
	T 24	, 132, , 135	Braybroke v. Inskip - 233 Brett v. Rigden - 150
	– v. Sutton	78~	Brice v. Smith - 272
Auften v. Taylo	or 240	• 37 5	
Auften v. Taylo Avelyn v. Ward		. 37: 506	
yu, çu	_	500	Brook v Gurney - 46. 220
•	B.		Broughton v. Errington 165
Backhouse v. W	Vells 357	. 361	
Bacon v. Hill		315	Brown v. Jerves - 270
Baddeley v. Lej		261	
Badger v. Lloye	ď -	465	
Bagihaw v. Sper	ncer 337. 342	. 362	517
Baker v. Wall	•		Brudenell v. Boughton - 71
Bale v. Coleman		336	Brydges v. Chandos (Duchels of)
Bamfield v. Pop		298	
Barker o. Giles	•	413	Buck v. Nurton - 196
- v. Smith	-	ib.	Buckworth v. Thirkell - 452
		•	Bullock

INDEX TO CASES.

•			•	-
F	age	Í		Page
Bullock v. Bullock -	44	Croft v. Pawlet	-	63
- v. Stones -	720	Crossly v. Clare	-	188
Bunker v. Cook -	20	Cunliffe v. Cunliffe	_	176
	185	Curteis v. Wolverston		429
Burford v. Lee	87	Cury v. Askew		
	86	on, 0, 1111011	_	75
Burtonshaw v. Gilbert 100.				
10		D		
Puts - Champet	43	Dall OL-		
Bute v. Stewart - 1	79)	Dalby v. Champernon	-	222
Butler and Baker's Case 27,	28	Darbison v. Beaumont	-	
Byas v. Byas -	45	Darley v. Langworthy	-	113
C	- 1	Davenport v. Oldis -		
	- 1.	424	j. 426	, 427
Camfield v. Gilbert - 2	OI :	Davie v. Stephens	-	28 t
Carden v. Tuck - 1	95 ^[]	Davis v. Gibbs -	205	. 212
Carlton v. Griffin -	56	Day v. Trig -	•	190
Carr v. Singer -	41	Dean v. Miller -		258
			. 311	
		- v. Mellor -	,. ,	316
		- v Page -		312
Challis v. Casborne -	21.	- v. Puckey -		294
Chamberlayne v. Turner - 11	20	v. Shenton		
Chapman's Cafe - 28	RA		270.	274
Chapman v. Bliffett - 5.	. Q T	Difter v. Difter -		
Chapman V. Dinett - 5.	10 1	Done Aller		, 112
	91 1	Doe v. Allen -	150,	319
v. Gibson -	43 ~	- v. Applin -		293
• Hart - 2	11 -	— v Burnfall — v. Burville -	-	358
Chefter v. Chefter 204. 22	50 -	- v. Burville -	•	418
v. Painter - 32	20 -	v. Carleton -		518
Child v. Bayly - 483. 485. 53	4 -	- v. Chapman -	193.	200
		- v. Clarke -		16
	4 -	- v. Collings -		196
Clare v. Clare - 49	7 -	— v Collis -		358
Clark v. Smith - 145. 455. 51	9 -	- v. Cooper -	295.	417
Clarke v. Abbot - 23	2 -	v. Cowling -		39
v. Day - 35	3 -	v. Fyldes - 159.	269.	
	1 -	v. Holme -		256
Clymer v. Littler 15		v. Ironmonger	-	186
Coke v. Bullock - 12	61-	v. Kerfey	_	67
Cole v. Levingston - 41	61-	v. Kett -		155
- e Rawlinfon - 24	– اه	- v. Lamino -	346.	240
Collier's Cafe - 25.	۱ ۱ –		102.	3 1 9
Collinson v. Wright 50	ء اء	- e Lyde -		
Colton v. Wilson - 7	2 _	- v. Lyde v. Meakin -	474-	
Combon - Will ark and and	- [2			202
Comber v. Hill 416, 424, 420		- v. Morgan -	456.	
Cook v. Cook - 186. 30	7 -	- v. Pott -		123
•. Parsons 64, 6		v. Richards 255.	317,	
Cooke v. Gerrard - 221	1	v. Rivers		276
Coppin v. Coppin - 73		- v. Smith -	294 . :	296
Cotter v. Layer - 10		→ v. Staple -	:	105
Cotton v. Heath 478. 480) ~	- v. Wetton	- 4	43
Coulson v. Coulson 326. 348. 391	:	- v. Wichelo		77.
Crickmer's Cale - 428	1	v. Wroot -		42
•		•	Dra	

· Page	Page
	Goodman v. Goodright - 464
Dubber v. Trollop - 333	Goodright v. Allen - 260
Dutton v. Engram - 271	v. Dunham - 345
2.000.00	v. Dunham - 345 v. Glazier - 141
E	v. Goodridge - 283
	v. Harwood - 83
Egglestone v. Speake - 89	e Pullyn - aga aga
Ellis v. Smith - 54, 91	v. Searle - 523
Ellifon v Airey - 433	v. Stocker - 263
Evans v. Aftley - 285	v. Searle - 523
Ewer v. Hayden - 191	Goodlitte v. Herring - 247
Eyres v. Faulkland - 267	v. Maddern - 257
· F	v. Maddern - 257
-	119. 239
Fairfax v. Heron - 446	v. Pagden - 493 v Wadhold 300 v. Wodhull - 345
Falkland v. Lytton - 222	v Wadhold 300
Farmer v. Wife - 250	v. Wodhull - 345
Fawlkener v. Fawlkener - 182	Goodwin v. Kilshaw - 76
Fenton v. Foster - 266	Gore v. Gore - 450.501.510
Fitzgerald v. Leslie - 274	Graylon v. Atkinion - 52.251
	Green v. Armstead - 238
	v. Prouder - 157
Forse v. Hembling - 105	Greenam v. Greenam - 31
Forth v. Chapman - 490	Griffiths v. Vere - 570
Foster v. Cook - 435	Gulliver v. Wicket 443. 506. 518
Fowler v. Ongley - 405	Gurnell v. Wood - 523. 553
Touche a I ac	
Freake v. Lee - 255	Gwynne v. Heaton - 535
Freeman v. Chandos (D. of) 204.	Gynes v. Kinnesley - 183
224	
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244	н
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244	н
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 v. Wright - ih. Fuller v. Fuller - 151	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72.
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 v. Wright - ih. Fuller v. Fuller - 151	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72.
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 v. Wright - ih. Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 v. Wright - ih. Fuller v. Fuller - 151	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 v. Wright - ih. Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 107
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 ———— v. Wright Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Garland v. Thomas - 412	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 170
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nafh - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nafh - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 — v. Wright - ih. Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Thomas - 412 Garland v. Baldwin - 338. 378 Garth v. Baldwin - 524 Gawin v. Ramtes - 20 George v 37 Gibson v. Montfort - 264 - v. Rogers - 132. 545	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 — v. Wright Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Thomas - 412 Garth v. Baldwin - 338. 378 — v. Cotton - 524 George v 37 Gibfon v. Montfort - 264 Gilbert v Witty - 415	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 — v. Wright - ih. Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Sheldon - 338. 378 Garth v. Baldwin - 338. 378 — v. Cotton - 524 Gawin v. Ramtes - 20 George v 37 Gibfon v. Montfort - 264 Gilbert v Witty - 415 Ginger v White - 345	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 — v. Wright Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Sheldon - 338. 378 Garth v. Baldwin - 338. 378 Garth v. Ramtes George v 37 Gibfon v. Montfort - 264 Gibfon v. Montfort - 264 Gilbert v Witty - 415 Gilbert v Witty - 345 Glenorchy v. Bofville - 374. 376.	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 — v. Wright - ih. Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Sheldon - 338. 378 Garland v. Thomas - 412 Garth v. Baldwin - 338. 378 — v. Cotton - 524 Gawin v. Ramtes - 20 George v 37 Gibfon v. Montfort - 264 Gilbert v Witty - 415 Gilbert v Witty - 345 Glenorchy v. Bofville - 374. 376.	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Sheldon	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 ——— v. Wright Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 182 Gardner v. Sheldon - 183 Gardner v. Sheldon - 183 Garland v. Thomas - 412 Garth v. Baldwin - 338. 378 —— v. Cotton - 524 Gibfon v. Montfort - 264 ——— v. Rogers - 132. 545 Gibert v Witty - 415 Gilbert v Witty - 345 Glenorchy v. Bofville - 374. 376. Glover v. Spendlove Godolphin v. Penneck - 431	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Harding v. Glynn - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 125 Harland v. Trigg - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518
Frogmorton v. Holyday - 244 Fuller v. Fuller - 151 Furfe v. Weiks - 405 G Galton v. Hancock - 126 Gardiner v. Sheldon - 283 Gardner v. Sheldon - 182 George v 378 Gibfon v. Montfort - 264 Gibfon v. Montfort - 264 Gibfon v. Montfort - 264 Gibfon v. Witty - 345 Glenorchy v. Bofville - 374 Glenorchy v. Bofville - 374 Glover v. Spendlove - 224 Godolphin v. Penneck - 431	H Habergham v. Vincent - 70. 72. 157. 465 Haines v. Haines - 94 Hall v. Dunch - 124 Hamington v. Rudyard - 479 Hanbury v. Cockerill - 442 Hands v. James - 62 Hardacre v. Nash - 197 Hardare v. Bayley - 179 Harkneis v. Bayley - 178 Harris v. Barnes - 518

Page	_
Hayworth v. Pretty - 145	K n
Hayward v Stillingfleet - 5.9	Page
Heath v. Heath - 442	Kenebel v. Scrafton - 41
Heylin v. Heylin - 139	122007000000000000000000000000000000000
Hick v Mors - 110	Interince of Diamity - 130
Hickson v. Witham - 157	Kerry v. Derrick
Higgins v. Dowler - 509	ILLUCIAL OF LOWELLING
Hill v. London (Ep.) - 21	King v. Burchell 354. 359 402
Hillier, ex parte - 141	King v. King - 4t
Hills v. Downton - 43	v. Melling 359
Hilton v. King - 91	Rumball - 284 410
Hitchins v. Bassett - 82.85	Knotsford v. Gardiner - 210
Hodgkinfon v. Star - 175	
- v. Wood - 124	
Hodgion v. Ambrole - 152. 154.	
327	Lade v. Holford - 162.533 Lamb v Archer - 486
Hodion v. Lloyd - 105	Lamb • Archer 486 Lampet's Cafe 477
Hoe v. Gerils - 441 Holdfaft v. Martin - 249	Lancaster v. Thornton - 437
Holmes v. Meynill - 415	
Hone v Medcraft - 126	
Hope ex dem. Brown v. Taylor	Lanesborough v. Fox - 463
28:	
Hopkins v. Hopkins 458. 515	
510. 545	Law v. Lincoln (Ep.) - 21
How v. Vigueres - 21	Lawfey Lowdell 343
Humberston v. Humberston 161.	Lea v. Libb 55
5 44 , 553	Legate v. Sewell 334
Hungerford v. Nofworthy - 82	Legh «. Warrington (E. 01) 431
	Le Maitre v. Bannister - 177
	Lemayne v. Stanley - 50.53
Hutton v Simpson - 151 181	
Huxlop v. Brooman - 196	
Hyde v. Hyde - 92. 96	Lewen v. Cox - 409 Lindopp v Everall - 219
- -	Lincoln (Ld.)'s Case - 108
. I	Lingard v. Derby 420
Ibbetion v. Beckwith - 244. 248	Litton v. Falkland (Lady) 130
263	- v. Russel (Lady) - 231
Richefter (Ld) ex parte - 103	Loddington v. Kyme 187. 356
Inchly v. Robinson - 190	Long v. Blackall 449. 487. 532.
	538. 545
· J	Longford v. Eyre 61
2.16 27	
Jackson v. Hogan - 177.254	Love v. Windham 481. 491. 497.
James v. Collins - 409	1
	-J-
	Lowe v. Davies - 346. 349
v. Morgan 342.401.467.47	Lowther v. Cavendish - 207
v. Newman - 160	Luther v. Kirby 123 Lutwich v. Mitton - 110
- v. Westcombe - 50	Lytton v. Lytton 471
9	Maggot

		D	! <u>.</u>	
M	-	Page	Pest v. Powell 2	age 142
: .			Peat & Ougly -	68
Magget and Sewell	•	361	Peat v. Ougly Peiton v. Banks 2	. 5 3
Manning's Cafe -	-	477	Pells v. Brown 441, 445, 446, 4	50
Martin v. Savage -	•	149	Pendock v. Makender -	67
Markant v Twilden	۵	*75	Penphrate v. Lantdown (Ld.) r	20
Marsh v. Marsh -	-			
Marwood v. Turner -	III.	120	Perry v. Philips v. White Pettywood v Cook Phinard v. Manefield	27
Maryat v. Townley	•	411	v. White 4	18
Massenburgh v. Ash	-	500	Pettywood v Cook - 3	6 0
Masters v. Masters -	. •	49	Phipard v. Mansfield 42 F.424.4	27
Merson v. Blackmore Meure v. Meure	•	310	Philips v. Hele - 20. 2 Phipps v. Anglefea (E. of)	29
Milbourn v. Milbourn	-	375	Phipps v. Anglefea (E. of)	88
Miller v. Seagrave -	-	219	Pierion v. Garnet - 1 Piggott v. Waller - 136. 1 Pike v. White	80
Minshull v. Minshull	_ •	334	Figgott v. Waller - 136. 1	39
Moore v. Denn -				44
v. Hawkins		-,-	Figurificate v. Landown =	E C
v. Moore -		4	Pistol v. Riccardson - 211.2	
v. Price .	_	254	Pitcairne v. Brase - 1	
Morrice v. Ward	-	224	Pitt v. Jackson - 1	
Mullinix's Cafe	-	337	Pollen v. Huband 1	09
Murray v. Wife		750	Poole v. Poole - 3	
		٠,٠	Danie J. D. J.	49
₩			Profiled v. Prodger	15
			Profiler v. Potter - 33. 1	10
Newcastle (Dis. of) v. 1	Pelham	10	Proctor v. Dath (Ep.) 400. 5	33
Newland v. Shephard	_	840	rureroy v. Rogers 450. 458. 5	15
••	_	24 0	Desk of Desk	~-
Newman v. Johnson	•	436	Pyot v. Pyot 1	87
TACM COM A. DAMMERGRAE	•	20 2	Potter v. Potter 33. I Proctor v. Bath (Ep.) 460. 5 Purefoy v. Rogers 456. 458. 5 Pyot v. Pyot	87
Newman v. Johnson Newton v. Barnardine Norfolk (D. of)'s Case	482.	20 2 534	' R	87
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe	482. 9 544	534. 552	R Rafter v. Stock	
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd	482. 544. 353.	534. 552	R Rafter v. Stock	43
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd	482. 544. 353.	534. 552	R Rafter v. Stock	43 91
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd	482. 544. 353.	534. 552	Rafter v. Stock Raftkey v. Mafter - 11 Reading v. Royfton - 12 Reed v. Hatton - 2	43 91 45
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Newlan v. Nelligan	482. 544. 353.	534. 552	R Rafter v. Stock Raftkey v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower	43 91 45 59
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O	482. 9 544. 252,	253 552 253 279 279	R Rafter v. Stock Rafthry v. Mafter - 1: Reading v. Royfton - 1: Reed v. Hatton - 2: Reeves v. Gower - 2: Ridart v. Pain - 2:	43 91 45 59 54
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont	482. 9 544. 252,	253 552 253 279 279	R Rafter v. Stock Raftley v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager	43 91 45 59 54
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O	482. 9 544- 252,	534. 552 253 279. 279.	R Rafter v. Stock Rafthry v. Mafter - 11 Reading v. Royfton - 12 Reeves v. Gower - 2 Ridart v. Pain - 2 Rider v. Wager - 16 Right v. Hammond - 11	43 91 45 59 54
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont	482. 544- 252,	534. 552 253 279 279 279 265	R Rafter v. Stock Rafthry v. Mafter - 11 Reading v. Royfton - 12 Reeves v. Gower - 2 Ridart v. Pain - 2 Rider v. Wager - 16 Right v. Hammond - 11	43 91 45 59 54 51
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke v. Jackfon. Ogle v. Cook	482. 544- 252,	534. 552 253 279 279 498 265 404	R Rafter v. Stock Rafthry v. Mafter - 11 Reading v. Royfton - 12 Reeves v. Gower - 2 Ridart v. Pain - 2 Rider v. Wager - 16 Right v. Hammond - 11	43 91 45 59 54 51 75
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke - v. Jackfon. Ogle v. Cook Onions v. Tyrer	482. 9 544- 252,	534. 552 253 279 279 498 265 404	R Rafter v. Stock Rafthry v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Ruffel v. Sidebotham	43 91 45 59 54 51 75
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke	482. 544- 252,	265 404 125 265	R Rafter v. Stock Rafthry v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Ruffel v. Sidebotham River's Cafe	43 945 554 557 751 751 752 84
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke - v. Jackfon. Ogle v. Cook Onions v. Tyrer	482. 9 544- 252,	534. 552 253 279 279 498 265 404	R Rafter v. Stock Raftley v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Sidebotham River's Cafe Robinfon v. Hardraftle	43 945 55 55 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke	482. 9 544- 252,	253 279 279 279 265 404 125 404	R Rafter v. Stock Rafthry v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Ruffel v. Sidebotham River's Cafe Robinfon v. Hardcaftle v. Hicks 289, 256 30	43 45 45 55 45 55 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke	482. 9 544- 252,	253 279 279 279 265 404 125 404	R Rafter v. Stock Raftley v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Ruffel v. Sidebotham River's Cafe Robinfon v. Hardcaftle v. Hicks 289, 296 3	43 945 55 55 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke	482. 544. 252, 90. 93	282 554. 552 253 279 279 279 498 498 404 125 67	R Rafter v. Stock Rafthry v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Rider v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Ruffel v. Sidebotham River's Cafe Robinfon v. Hardcaftle v. Miller v. Miller v. Robinfon Robinfon Robinfon Robinfon v. Robinfon	43 15 94 15 7 5 1 7 3 4 5 5 9 4 3 9 4 5 9 4 5 9 4 5 9 4 5 9 4 5 9 4 5 9 4 5 9 4 5 9 4 5 9 4 5 9 5 9
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke	482. 544. 252, 90. 93	282 534- 552 253 279- 279- 265 404- 125- 96- 42- 67-	R Rafter v. Stock Raftley v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond	43 5 5 5 5 5 7 5 5 7 3 4 5 9 9 4 3 5 7 5 5 7 3 4 5 9 9 4 3 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke v. Jackfon. Ogle v. Cook Oaions v. Tyrer Otway v. Hudfon Oxenden v. Penrice P Pacy v. Knolls Palmer v. Schribb	482. 544. 252, 90. 93	282 534- 552 253 279- 279- 498 265- 42- 5- 67- 191 176-	R Rafter v. Stock Rashley v. Master Reading v. Royston Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Russel v. Sidebotham River's Case Robinson v. Hardasttle v. Miller v. Miller v. Miller v. Robinson Roe v. Avis 206, 26	495 555 751 734 555 751 734 594 557 557 751 734 559 758
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke v. Jackfon. Ogle v. Cook Oaions v. Tyrer Otway v. Hudfon Oxenden v. Penrice P Pacy v. Knolls Palmer v. Schribb	482. 544. 252, 90. 93	282 534- 552 279 279 279 498 265 404- 125 67	Rafter v. Stock Raftley v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reeding v. Royfton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Sidebotham River's Cafe Robinfon v. Hardaaftle v. Miller v. Miller v. Robinfon Roe v. Avis v. Blackett v. Bolton	494555075173459943788
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke - v. Jackfon. Ogle v. Cook Onions v. Tyrer Otway v. Hudfon Oxenden v. Penrice P Pacy v. Knolls. Palmer v. Schribb Papillon v. Voice 325.	482. 544- 252, 90-93	282 534- 552 279 279 279 498 265 404- 125 67 176 375- 383	Rafter v. Stock Raftley v. Mafter Reading v. Royston Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Sidebotham River's Cafe Robinson v. Hardastle v. Miller v. Miller v. Miller v. Robinson Roe v. Avis v. Blackett v. Bolton 3394 44	4316 945 555 7517 345 945 945 975 975 985 975 985 975 985 975 985 985 985 985 985 985 985 985 985 98
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Newlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke v. Jackfon. Ogle v. Cook Onions v. Tyrer Otway v. Hudfon Oxenden v. Penrice P Pacy v. Knolls. Papillen v. Voice 325. Parfons v. Freeman 107	482. 544- 252, 90. 93 373. 3 376. 112.	282 534. 552 253 279 498 265 404 1125 67 191 176 375- 383 3118	Rafter v. Stock Raftley v. Mafter Reading v. Royston Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond	49455550751734598897588995
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke v. Jackfon. Ogle v. Cook Oaions v. Tyrer Otway v. Hudfon Oxenden v. Penrice P Pacy v. Knolls, Palmer v. Schribb Papillon v. Voice 325. Parfons v. Freeman 107 Paul v. Paul	482. 544- 252, 90-93 373. 376. 112. 201.	282 534. 552 279 279 498 265 404 1125 67 191 176 375- 383 3118 208	Rafter v. Stock Raftley v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeves v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond	49455550751734598975889938
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe Norton v. Ladd Nottingham v. Jennings Nowlan v. Nelligan O Oakes v. Chalfont Oates v. Cooke v. Jackfon. Ogle v. Cook Oaions v. Tyrer Otway v. Hudfon Oxenden v. Penrice P Pacy v. Knolls, Palmer v. Schribb Papillon v. Voice 325. Parfons v. Freeman 107 Paul v. Paul	482. 544- 252, 90-93 373. 376. 112. 201.	282 534. 552 279 279 498 265 404 1125 67 191 176 375- 383 3118 208	Rafter v. Stock Raftley v. Mafter Reading v. Royfton Reed v. Hatton Reeve v. Gower Ridart v. Pain Rider v. Wager Right v. Hammond v. Price v. Sidebotham River's Cafe Robinfon v. Hardcaftle v. Miller v. Miller v. Miller v. Bolton v. Hicks v. Harvey v. Hicks v. Hicks v. Helms	49455550751734598897588995

•	D	.
Dan at Inform	Page	Conint on Posses
Roe v. Jeffery v. Jones	450	Spirt v. Bence - 306 Spragge v Stone - 101
	212	Stamford (E. of) v. Hobart, 370
	233	Stanley v. Leigh
- v. Wegg -	-33	Stanley v. Leigh - 509 Stephens v. Stephens 447. 511.
v. Weskett		
Rogers v. Briggs		
Rogers c. Briggs	F21	Strathmore of Bowes 128 120
Rook v. Rook	221	Stringer v Phillips - 412 Sutton v. Sutton - 97 Swift v. Roberts - 27
Roper v. Ratcliffe -	88	Sutton v. Sutton - 97
Role v. Bartlet 205. 207,	208,	Swift v. Roberts - 27
209, 210. 212	6. Z17	
Rofs v. Rofs - Rudstone v. Anderson -	412	${f T}$
Ross v. Ross	44	Target v. Gaunt - 489
Ruditone v. Anderlon -	120	Target v. Gaunt - 489 Taylor v. Biddall - 446 Teat v. Strong - 227 Tendril c. Smith - 218
Rumbold v. Rumbold -	44	Teat v. Strong - 227
Rundale v. Eeley	324	Tendril c. Smith - 218
S		Thelluffon v. Thelluffon - 489
_		Thellusson v. Thellusson - 489 Woodford - 524
Sabbarton v. Sabbarton 49.	4.515	Theobalds v. Duffey - 522 Thimpland v. Courteney - ib.
Say and Sele (Ld.) v. Jones	378	Thimpland v. Courteney - ib.
Sayer v. Masterman - 320	5. 383	Thomas v Penneck + A21
Scatterwood v. Edge 504 54	4.553	v. Thomas - 155. 166
Scott v. Scott	147	Thompson v. Lawley 160. 216
Seaward v Willock -		Thong v. Bedford - 329
Selwin v. Selwin 23.24.11	4. 128	Thrustout v. Cunningham 39. 128
Shailard or Raker	37	Tickner v. Tickner - 124. 125 Tilbury v. Barbut - 440
Semaine v. ———————————————————————————————————	270	Timewell v. Perkins - 194. 239
Shaw v. Bull	2/5	Tomlinfon v. Deighton . 201
and Weigh	26I	Tomlinson v. Deighton - 301 Torret v. Frampton - 409
and Weigh - 26.	1. 265	Trench v. Cadell - 473
Sheffield a Orrary (Id)		Trimmer et Jackson - 68
Shelley's Cafe 343, 344, 348 382, 386, 387, 389, 390	. 369	Trott v. Vernon - 430
382 386. 387. 389. 390	392.	Trott v. Vernon - 430 Tuckerman v. Jeffries - 405
391. 402. 403		Tuffnell v. Page - 76 Turner v. Huller - 208
Shephard v. Newland -	242	Tuffnell v. Page - 76 Turner v. Husler - 208 Tyte v. Willis - 278
Sheppard o Gibbons	411	Tyte v. Willis - 278
Shires v Glascock	60	
Short v. Smith	98	\mathbf{v}
Shove v. Pinckie	108	Veizy v. Pinwell - 521
Smartle v. Scholar	182	Vernon v. Jones . 125
Smith v. Coffin v. Evans		1
v. Tindal	50 258	\mathbf{w}
v. Trigg	146	Wagstaff v. Wagstaff - 72
Snow v Cutler -	455	Walpole (Ld.) v. Cholmondeley
Soule v. Gerrard -	4)) 270	(Ld.) - 137
Southby v. Stonehouse -	502	Walter v. Drew - 283 474
Southcote v. Stawell	367	Warde v. Warde 38
Spalding v. Spalding -	456	Warneford v. Thompson - 439
	6. i i 8	Warneford v. Warneford - 50
- v. Shaw -	288	

	Page	1	Page
Warner v. White		Willington v. Willington -	473
Warren v. White -		Willis v. Lucas -	181
Warrington (Ld.) v. Booth	435	Willows v. Lidcot -	22 I
Watts v. Fullarton -		Wind v. Jekyll	522
Wealthy v. Bosville -	457	Wood v Baron -	282
Webb v. Claverdon -		— v. Saunders -	485
v. Hearing 231.25	8. 277	Wooden v. Ofborn -	193
•	278	Woodward v Glassbrook	306
Webster's Case -	4¢5		463
Wellock v. Hammond -	254	v Holford 420, 421.	423.
Wharton v. Gresham -	281		427
Wheeler v. Waldron -	220	v. Pearson 339.342.	354.
Whitchurch v. Whitchurch	74		362
White v. Carter -	377	- v. Wright	522
v. Collins - 35	5.397	Wyndham v. Chetwynd -	67
Widlake v. Harding -	233	Wynn v. Wynn -	151
Wild's Case	28	Wynne v. Hawkins -	178
Wilkin's v. Whiting -	332	- v. Littleton -	230
Wilkinson v. Merryland -	230		
- v South -	493	Y	
Williams v. Brown -	417	Young v. Holmes -	28
v. Owens -	122		20

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

Vol. I.—page 92. 1. 19. for no read a.—1. 26 for his read the; and after Administrators, insert, of the Party that had the Estate.

pq. 93. l. 13. after convey read jointly with such Person.

pa. 221. l. 22. for interred read intereft.

pa. 284.—§ 5. No notice is necessary to a tenant at sufferance.
pa. 301. § 32. The doctrine here laid down must be underflood, that an attachment will lie against the lord, if he should refuse inspection, after a rule of court directing

it.—Vide the King v. Shelley, 3 Term Rep. 141. pa. 355. l. 16. for deprivation read depreciation.

pa. 405. l. 20. dele not.

pa. 414. l. 2. for eldest read youngest.

pa. 455. l. 14. for G read D.

pa. 461. 1. 20. after heirs, insert, in trust for B.

pa. 512. l. 27. for devised read demised.

pa. 514. l. 21. for leffee read leffor.

pa. 534.—§ 30. The determination of the Master of the Rolls, that a term attendant on the inheritance will not protect a purchaser from dower, unless it has been actually assigned to a trustee, for the purchaser has been confirmed by Lord Eldon.—Vide 10 Ves. Jun. 269.

Vol. II.—page 28. l. 18. after could infert not.
pa. 109. l. 30. for mortgagors read mortgages,
pa. 124. l. 19. for vote for knight of the shire read si in
Parliament,
ps. 130. l. 15. for mortgage read mortgages,
pa. 217. l. 25. for assignment read appointment.
pa. 219. l. 2. dele nosu the.—l. 4. add, by Lord Hard-wicke.
pa. 235. last line, soo incumbrancer read incumbrance.
pa. 284. l. 11. for to read by.
pa. 403. l. 8. after against, insert—the representatives of.
pa. 410. l. 17 for a read A. the—l. 19. for in read is.
pa. 427. l. 29. for 41. read 21.
pa. 455. l. 24. dele case.
pa. 505. l. 20. for to read by.

Vol. III.—pa. 36. In Marg. for b. read 6.
pa. 236. l. 6. dele or Folony.
pa. 271. l. 24. dele that.
pa. 394. l. 18. after them, infert—his grandfather's brothers or fifters, or their descendants, or for want of them—

Vol. IV.—pa. 158. l. 9. dele in.

pa. 240. § 32. in a fubsequent case, Lord Eldon held

clearly that a person may have a power of appointment, at the same time taking to himself the

whole interest in the see over which the power is
to be executed, 10 Ves. jun. 254.

pa. 281. § 64. vide 10 Ves. jun. 266.

pa. 461. l. 15. for without read with.

DIGEST

OF THE

Laws of England

RESPECTING

REAL PROPERTY.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. I.

Of the Origin and Nature of Devifes.

CHAP. II.

Who may devise, and to whome

CHAP. III.

What may be devised.

CHAP. IV.

Of Devises of Copyholds.

CHAP. V.

Of the Solemnities necessary to a Devise.

♥ol: VI.

B

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Revocation of Devises.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Republication of Deviscs.

CHAP. VIII.

Of void Devises.

CHAP. IX.

Of the Construction of Devises .- General Rules.

CHAP. X.

Construction.—What Words create a Devise, and describe the Devisees, and the Things devised.

CHAP. XI.

Construction.—What Words create an Estate in Fee.

CHAP. XIL

Construction.—What Words create an Estate Tail.

CHAP. XIII.

Construction.—What Words create an Estate for Life.

CHAP. XIV.

Construction .- Of the Rule in Shelley's Cafe.

CHAP. XV.

Obnstruction.—What Words create a Joint-Tenancy or Towarcy in Common, and Cross-Remainders.

CHAP. XVI.

Construction.—What Words create a Condition, and make Lands liable to Debts, and enable Persons to sell Lands.

CHAP. XVII.

Executory Devises.—Devise over after a Devise in Fee-

CHAP. XVIII.

Executory Devises.—Devise of a Freehold Estate to com-

CHAP. XIX.

Executory Devises of Terms for Years.

CHAP. XX.

Other Matters relating to Executory Devises.

CHAP. I.

Of the Origin and Nature of Devifes.

- 5 1. Origin of Devises.
 - 6. Statutes of Wills.
- 10. Nature of a Devise under these Statutes.
- 12. Of a Codicil.
- 14. A Devise transfers the Freebold.
- 1 c. And imports a Confideration.
- 16. Devises are woid against Cre-
- 18. Devisees are entitled to Aid in Equity.
- 19. A Devise need not be proved in the Ecclesiastical Court.
- 21. A Devise may be registered.

Section 1.

THE last mode of conveying property, is, by devised vise or disposition contained in a person's last.

Will and testament, to take place at the death of the B2 devisor.

Howard Cout. Angl. Norm. vol. 1. **2.** 476.

Lib. 7. cr5.

devisor. The word devise appears to be derived from divide, and, originally, meant any kind of division or distribution of lands; but it was used to denote a will so early as in the time of Glanville, who says, -Potest enim quilibet homo, majoribus debitis non involutus, de rebus suis, in informitate sua, rationabilem devisant facere.

r Inft. 111 6. n. I. 2 Inft. 7. 6 Rep. 17 a. Gilb. Rep. **3**59. Wright's Fen. 173.

§ 2. It is generally agreed, that the power of deviling lands existed in the time of the Saxons; but, upon the establishment of the Normans, it was taken away, because it was inconsistent with the principles of the feudal law; and, although many of the restraints on alienation by deed were removed before Glanville wrote, yet the power of devising lands was not allowed for a long time after, partly from an apprehension of imposition on persons in their last moments, and partly on account of the want of that public notoriety which the common law required in every transfer of real property: and, therefore, it is faid in the same chapter of Glanville, from which the passage in the preceding section is taken, which relates to personal property only, that no person could dispose of his lands by will; de hareditate vere nihit in ultima voluntate disponere potesta

§ 3. The power of deviling, however, continued as to focage lands fituated in cities and boroughs, and also as to all lands in Kent, which were held by the custom of Gavelkind; and as the ancient Saxon laws are supposed to have remained unaltered in Kent, this in the second

Rob. Gav. 234.

is an additional proof, that lands were devisable in the time of the Sauons.

§ 4. We have seen, that a power of devising lands Tit. 11, ch. 2. was indirectly acquired by means of the invention of f. 34. mies; and this power appears not only to have been allowed by the Crown and the Legislature, but even, in some particular inflances, to have received their fanction: for, by the statute 7 Hen. 7. c. 3. and 14 and 15 Hen. 8. c. 14, persons who were in the king's fervice in the wars, were allowed to alien their lands, for the performance of their wills, without ligence or fine for alienation,

§ 5. The practice of deviling the use of lands, carried the power of disposing of real property much farther than was confistent with the nature of tenures; it tended to deprive lords of their wardships, profits of marriages and reliefs, and the king of his primer feifin, livery and fines for alienation; which constituted a confiderable part of the old revenue of the crown. This, together with many other inconveniencies, that flowed from the doctrine of uses, was removed by the statute 27 Hen, 8. c. 10. which, uniting the legal seisin Tit. 11. ch. 3, of the land to the use, effectually took away the power of deviling.

§ 6. The inconveniencies which attended this re- Statutes of Araint on the disposition of lands by devise, induced the Legislature, in a few years after, to give every one a power of deviling a certain portion of his land. An act was therefore made, 32 Hen. 8, c. 1, insituled,...

The act of wills, wards, and primer seisins, &c. reciting, that persons of landed property could not conveniently maintain hospitality, nor provide for their families, the education of their children, or payment of their debts, out of their goods and moveables; it, therefore, enacts, that all and every person and perfons having manors, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, may give and dispose of them, as well by last will and testament in writing, as by any act executed in their lifetime, in the following manner: If they held in foccage, they might devise the whole; and if they held of the king, or of any other person by knight fervice, they might devise two parts, or as much as should amount to the yearly value of two parts in three, in certainty, and by special divisions, so as it might be known.

§ 7. By the statute 34 and 35 Hen. 8. c, 5, intituled, An act for the explanation of wills, reciting, that feveral doubts, questions, and ambiguities, had arisen upon the statute 32 Hen, 8. it was enacted, that the words " estate of inheritance," used in that statute, should mean only an estate in fee-simple. And that "all and fingular person and persons, having " a sole estate or interest in fee-simple, or seised in fee-" fimple in coparcenary or in common of or in any manors, lands, tenements, rents, or other hereditaments in possession, reversion, remainder, or of ee rents or services incident to any reversion or re-" mainder (not holding by knight's fervice), shall have ff full and free liberty, power, or authority, to give, ff dispose, will, or devise to any person or persons " (except

- (except bodies politic and corporate) by his last will
- and testament in writing, as much as in him of
- 46 right is or shall be, all his said manors, lands,
- se tenements, rents, and hereditaments, or any of
- " them."
- is 8. With respect to lands held by knight-service, either of the king or of a subject, no more than twothirds thereof could be devised under the authority of these statutes; but, in consequence of the abolition of military tenures, and the conversion of knight-service into common focage, the operation of these statutes now extends to all estates in fee-simple.
- § 9. The statutes of wills, being in the affirmative, I Inft. 111 & were held not to take away the custom of devising; 3 Rep. 35 c. and, formerly, it was of importance, in many cases, to refort to the custom of devising, as being most beneficial for the devisee: but now, the two powers being affimilated, and made for the most part commenfurate, it can feldom happen that it should be necessary to call the power by custom in aid; though it is possible, as, where the custom enables an infant of fourteen, or a feme covert, to devise.

§ 10. The idea of a devise of land was, evidently, taken from the testament of the Romans, which was at all times allowed in England with respect to personal tutes. property. But the power of devising lands, being given by positive statutes, is only co-extensive with the words of these statutes: a devise is, therefore, founded on different principles, and governed by different rules,

Devise under these StaCowp. Rep. 305.

from a testament, which is only an instrument to convey personal property; for a devise is considered, not so much in the nature of a testament, as of a conveyance declaring the uses, to which the land shall be subject after the death of the devisor.

\$ 11. The word testament, in the Roman law, was applied only to dispositions, which contained the institution or appointment of an heir, who was to take all the property of the testator; and the Roman lawyers observe, that a testament might be made in five words, Ruinque verbis patest quis facere testamentum, ut dicar, "Lucius Titius mibi hares esta." All other dispositions, in which there was no heir named, were called codicils, or donations in contemplation of death; but the English law does not admit of these distinctions: for a devise does not necessarily imply the appointment of a general heir, or a disposition of all the testator's lands, but only of those which are particularly mentioned, and the residue descends to the heir of the testator, as if no such devise had been made.

Ot a Codicil.

- § 12. A codicil, of which the name only is taken from the Roman law, is a supplement to a devise, or an addition made by a testator to his will, and of which, it is considered as a part; being intended to alter or explain, or to make some addition to, or subtraction from, the former dispositions of the testator.
- § 13. A person may, therefore, make several wills of different parts of his lands, or of distinct estates or interests therein; and he may also make several codicils,

dicils, altering, explaining, adding to, or substracting from, what has been before devifed; or deviling any part of his estate not disposed of by any former will or codicil; and the law will annex fuch codicil or codicils to his will, and confider the whole as one instrument.

§ 14. In the case of a devise of lands, the freehold A Devise is in the devisee before entry, and he may enter with- Freehold. out the affent of the heir of the devisor, to whom nothing descends. If the heir of the devisor enters, the devilee may bring an ejectment against him: and those to whom lands are given by devise, are said to take in the nature of purchasers, though the bounty of the testator is the only consideration which is supposed in a will,

transfers the 1 Inft. 111 4.

§ 15. A devise imports a consideration in itself, and, therefore, cannot be averred to be to the use of any other but the devisee. It is for this reason, that a deyise of lands cannot be averred at law to be in bar of f. 22, &c. dower, jointure, or any other right or interest to which the devisee is entitled. But, in equity, a devise is sometimes considered as a satisfaction,

And imports a Confidera. tiqn. Tit. 6. ch. 5,

§ 16. Soon after the statute of wills, it was found, that the power of devising was attended with some very material inconveniencies; for creditors by bond or other specialty, which affected the heir, provided he had affets by descent, were defrauded of their securities, not having the same remedy against the devicee of their debtor. But it has been stated in a former

Devises are void agains Creditors.

title

Tit. 32. c. 10.

f. 2. and 3. all devises of land are declared to be fraudulent and void, as against bond-creditors, who may sue the heirs of the obligor, and also his devises, jointly. And it has been determined by Lord Hardwicke, that an estate in reversion is within this statute; and that a devise of the reversion by the heir of the obligor is also within the act; and, in such a case, the lands are liable.

Kinaston v. Clarke, Tit. 17. s. 26.

\$ 17. By the 4th section of this statute, devises for payment of debts or children's portions, pursuant to a marriage agreement, are excepted.

Devifes are entitled to aid in Equity.

Duchels of Newcastle v. Pelham, 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 460. \$ 18. Persons who claim lands under a will, having the law on their side, are entitled, as against the heir of the devisor, to the assistance of a court of equity, for a discovery of the deeds and writings relating to the devised estate, and to have them delivered up as following the lands. And this course of proceeding is founded on the highest reason; for, otherwise, all wills of land might be disappointed, and the heir at law, by gaining possession and getting the deeds into his custody, unless compellable to discover and produce them, in order to make out the title of the devisee, might defend himself at law, by setting up prior incumbrances, and by that means prevent a legal trial of the validity of the will, and totally frustrate the intention of the testator.

A Devise need not be proved in the Feelefialtical Court.

§ 19. A will of lands need not be proved in the ecclefiastical court, although it is usually done; because most

most wills of land contain also a disposition of personal estate. For the probate of such a will cannot be given in evidence, all the proceedings, so far as they relate to lands, being coram non judice, as that court has no Cro. Car. power to authenticate fuch a devise; and, therefore, a copy produced under its feal, is not evidence.

296-346.

§ 20. It is, therefore, frequently necessary, to produce the original will, and, for that purpose, to take it out of the ecclesiastical court in which it has been proved. And, in such a case, an application must be 1 Atk. 627. made to the Court or Chancery for an order to de- 4 Bro.R. 476. liver the will.

§ 21. A memorial of a will may be registered. A Devise Where it relates to lands fituated in Middlefex, or in any of the ridings of Yerk/hire, in which there is a register.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. 11,

Who may devise, and to subom,

- \$ 2. Who may devife.
 - 3. The King.
 - 5. The Lycen.
 - 6. Who are disabled from devifing.
- . 7. Infants.
 - 9. Idiats and Persons of nonsanz Memory.
- 10. Married Women.

- 12. Removal of Difabilities dogs not establish a Will.
- 16. Who may be Devisees.
 17. Infants in Ventre Matris.
- 19. Married Women.
- 20. Aliens.
- 21. Bestarde.
- 22. Persons uncertain.
- 23. Bodies Politic cannot de Dovifees.

Section 1,

O the validity of every device it is effentially necessary that there be a devisor capable of difposing, and a devisee or devisees capable of taking the lands devised,

Who may devile.

§ 2. With respect to the persons who are capable of devising, all persons seifed in see simple and who are capable of disposing of their estates by any conyeyance, inter vivas, may dispose of them by will.

The King. Rot. Parl. Vol. 3. 391. Nº 10. 4 Inft. 335.

§ 3. In 16 Rich. 2. the bishops, lords, and com, mons, affented in full parliament, that the king his heirs and successors might lawfully make their testaments; and that execution might be done of the same, whereof some doubt was made before. This act only authorized our kings to dispose of their personal property. For it is stated in Brook's Abridgment to have Tit. Freege. been laid down by Fortescue in 35 Hen. 6. that the Pl. 5. king could not devise his land by his testament. it appears from the rolls of parliament, that our kings were in the practice of conveying lands to trustees to the use of their last wills.

§ 4. It has however been lately enacted, that his Majesty, his heirs and successors, may by his will devise any manors, meffuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, which have at any time been purchased by his Majesty, or shall at any time be purchased by himhis heirs or faccessors, out of any monies issued and applied for the use of his or their privy purse, or with any other monies not appropriated to any public fervice, or to any manors, &c. which have come to his Majesty, or shall come to him, his heirs or successors, by gift, devile, or descent, or otherwise, from any of his or their ancestors, or any other person or persons, not being kings or queens of this realm:

39 & 46 Geo. 3. c. 88. f. 4.

S. The same statute, § 8. after reciting that by The Queen the law of England the queen confort, wife of the king, was capable of taking, granting, or disposing of property, as if she were a seme sole, but that doubts might arise how far this capacity of granting or disposing of property extended, and especially whether during the life of the king her hufband, it included the power of devising and bequeathing by last will and testamente

testament, and reciting that his Majesty was desirous that her Majesty during the King's life should have full power by her last will and testament to dispose of her real estates; it was enacted that it should be lawful for her Majesty, during the joint-lives of their Majesties, by her last will and testament to dispose of any manors, messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, purchased by or in trust for her Majesty, or which should thereafter vest in her Majesty, or in any person in trust for her, as fully as if she were sole and unmarried.

Who are disabled from devising, f. 14.

§ 6. With respect to the persons who are disabled from devising lands, there are four personal disqualisiscations mentioned in the statute of wills.

Infants.

§ 7. The first of these is infancy, and therefore persons under the age of twenty-one years are incapable of devising their lands. But if there be a local custom that lands and tenements within a certain district shall be devisable by all persons of the age of sisteen years or upwards, a devise of such lands by an infant of sisteen will be good.

Perk. f. 504.

Bedell v. Constable, Vaugh. 177. § 8. An infant may devise the guardianship of his child, by virtue of the statute 12 Cha. 2. ch. 24. And it has been contended that such a disposition draws after it the land, as incident to the guardianship; but this point has not been determined.

Idiots and Persons of nomine Memory. § 9. Another disability expressly mentioned in the statute of wills is idiocy, and nonsane memory. But

it should be observed that every person making a will is prefumed to be of found understanding until the contrary be proved, so that the onus probandi lies on the other fide.

§ 10. Married women are also expressly disabled by the statute of wills, from devising their lands. married women are now frequently enabled to dispose of lands by wills operating as appointments under powers.

Married Women.

Tit. 32. ch. 15. s. 26.

§ 11. A woman whose husband has abjured the realm, or who has been banished for life by act of parliament, may in all things act as a feme fole; and may therefore make a will of her lands.

1 Inft. 133 4-Portland v. Prodger, 2 Vern. 104-

§ 12. Where a devisor is under any of the disabilities before mentioned at the time when the will is made, it is absolutely void although the disability be removed before the death of the devisor; for the parties must be capable of devising at the time when they make their will.

Removal of Disabilities does not establift a Will.

§ 13. A man of full age declared in the presence of feveral witnesses that his will, made when he was under age, should stand. It was however adjudged that the will was void, on account of the infancy of the devisor, at the time of the first publication. But if the will had been republished after the devisor had 1 Salk. 228. attained his full age, it would have been good.

Burton, Comb. 84.

11 Mod. 157.

§ 14. If a person be of nonsane memory at the time of making his will, though he should afterwards resover his understanding; yet the will continues void.

Idem.

§ 15. It is the same if a married woman makes a will, and afterwards becomes a widow; for the will was void in its inception:

Who may be Devifees. § 16. All natural persons who are in esse at the time when a will is made, and who are capable of acquiring lands by purchase; such as infants, &c. may be devisees.

Infaiits in Ventre Matris. § 17. It was formerly much doubted whether an infant in ventre matris could be a devifee in a will, but it is now fettled that a devife of this kind is good.

Doe v. Clarke, å Hen. Black. Rep. 399. § 18. A person devised to his brother Henry Clarke and his assigns for life, remainder to the use and behoof of all and every such child or children of his said brother as should be living at the time of his decease. Henry Clarke died leaving several children, and his wise pregnant, who was delivered seven months after of a daughter. The question was, whether the posthumous child took any thing under this devise. Lord Chief Justice Eyre said, it was plain on the words of the will, that the testator meant that all the children whom his brother should leave behind him should be benefited. But independent of this intention, he held that an infant in ventre sa mere, who by the course and order of nature was then living, came elearly within the description of children living at the

time

time of his decease, and judgement was given accordingly.

§ 19. A married woman is not thereby disabled from being a devifee in a will; and although the cannot take any thing from her husband by deed, yet neither the custom of devising, nor the statute of wills disqualify a wife from being the devisee of her husband; because the devise does not take effect until the death of the husband, by which the marriage is disfolved, and they cease to be one person.

Married

Lit. f. 168. 1 Iaft. 112 a.

§ 20. Lord Hardwicke has faid there is no rule of Aliens. law, or upon the statute of wills, to prevent an alien from taking by devise, although it is a doubtful matter, for whose benefit he is enabled to take.

2 Vel. 362.

§ 21. A bastard may be a devisee, but he must have gained a name by reputation, and therefore a devise to a bastard in ventre matris is void, for he cannot gain a name by reputation until he is born.

Baftards. 1 Inft. 3 %. 1 P. Wms.

529.

§ 22. A devise to a person uncertain, as to such of A.'s daughters as shall marry a person of the name of Norton is good. And a devise to a person not in existence when the will is made, as to the first son of A.B. who has then no fon, is good by way of remainder or executory devise.

Perfors uncertain. Bate v. Norton. T. Raym. 82.

§ 23. Bodies politick and corporate are expressly disabled by the statute 34 and 35. Hen. 8. c. 5. s. 14. from taking by devise; in conformity to the spirit of VOL. VI.

Bodies Politic cannot be Devilees.

the laws against mortmain. It was however held, in consequence of the statute 43 Eliz. c. 4. that a devise to a corporation for a charitable use, was valid, as operating in the nature of an appointment. But now the statute 9 Geo. 2. c. 36. has rendered all devises for Tit.32. ch. 2. charitable uses void, except such as shall be made to the two universities, and to the colleges of Eton, Winchester, and Westminster.

TITLE XXXVIIL

DEVISE.

CHAP. III.

What may be devised.

- § 1. Estates in Fee-Simple.
 - 4. Estates for Lives.
 - 5. Chattels Real.
 - 6. Trust Estates.
 - ?. Equities of Redemption.
 - 3. Mortgages.
 - y. Advowfons.
- 11. Rents.
- 13. Tithes.
- 14. Franchises.
- 16. An Authority.

- § 17. Contingent Estates and Interests.
 - 22. A Joint-Tenancy not devifable.
 - 25. The Testator must be seised.
 - 28. And muft continue feifed.
 - 29. Exceptions.
 - 32. Lands contrasted for are devisable.
 - 39. And Terms for Years acquired after the Will.

Section 1.

HE proper subject of a devise is real property; and the words used in the statute of wills are, " manors, lands, tenements, rents, or other heredi-" taments in possession, reversion, or remainder;" which extend to every species of real property, whether corporeal or incorporeal.

Fee-fimple.

§ 2. Not only estates in fee-simple absolute, but also 3 Buist. 184. determinable fees, and base fees are devisable under these statutes; the word fee-simple being taken in its most extensive sense.

§ 3. By the words of the statute 34 and 35 Hen. 8. all persons seised in see-simple in coparcenary or in common, may devise the estates which they hold in this manner. And persons seised in see may devise any rents, commons, or other profits out of, or to be perceived of the same, or out of any parcel thereof.

Effates for Lives. Gawin v. Ramtes, Cro. Eliz 804. § 4. The statute 34 and 35 Hen. 8. only extended to estates in see-simple, and, therefore, did not enable persons to devise estates pur auter vie. But it was enacted by the statute 29 Cha. 2. c. 3. s. 12. that any estate pur auter vie shall be devisable.

Chattels Real.

§ 5. As to chattels real, or terms for years, they might always have been disposed of by testament, because they were only considered as personal estate. And in the case of a devise of a term for years, the devisee may maintain an ejectment; but he must shew the assent of the executor.

Molmes. 3 Stra. 70.

Truft Eftates.

Young v.

§ 6. As uses were the medium through which lands were originally devisable, so trust estates, which in fact are uses not executed by the statute, are now devisable in the same manner as trust estates. But, where a person has only an equitable interest in lands, his devise of them amounts to no more than a direction to those who have the legal estate in trust for him, to convey it according to the devise.

2 P. Wms. 258.

Equities of Redemption. Philips v. Hele, I Cha. Rep. 190.

§ 7. An equity of redemption, being similar to a trust estate, is devisable; so that, where a person seised in see mortgaged his estate, and afterwards devised it, the

the court decreed that the equity of redemption belonged to the devisee, and not to the heir. But if a mortgagor devises the land before the condition broken, it will be void, because a condition is not Ca. 8. devisable.

§ 8. Lands in mortgage may also be devised by the mortgagee; and in such a case if the devisee exhibits his bill against the mortgagor for redemption or to be foreclosed, a decree will be made accordingly,

Mortgages. How v. Vigueres, 1 Cha. Rep. 18.

§ 9. An advowson in gross being an hereditament is devisable under the statute of wills, and the next or any number of prefentations may also be devised, in which case the devisee may either present himself or any other person.

Advowlons. Cleer v. Peacock, Cro. Eliz. 359. Law v. Epif. Lineoln, 2 Black. Rep. 1240.

§ 10. Where the incumbent of a church had the inheritance of the advowson in him and devised the next presentation, it was held good; for though the will had no effect until the death of the devisor, yet it had an inception in his lifetime, and that made it good.

Penchin v., Harris, Cro. Ja. 371.

Hill v. Epil. London, 1 Atk, 618.

§ 11. A rent charge is devisable by the words of Rents. the statute 34 and 35 Hen. 8. and a rent charge de nove may also be created by devise. was formerly doubted whether a rent charge in effe, 1 Inst. 111 a. issuing out of gavelkind lands, and having commenced within time of memory, was within the custom of devising; and it was not settled to be so till the time of Lord Hale,

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Idem.

§ 12. As to rent service, it of course followed the nature of the reversion or seignory to which it was incident. Nor was there any doubt as to the custom's extending to other rents if they had existed immemorially.

Tithes. § 13. Tithes impropriate in lay hands are compre-Tit. 22. f.75. hended under the general word hereditaments in the statute of wills, and are therefore devisable.

Franchises.
1 Init. 111 b.
3 Rep. 32 b.

§ 14. Lord Coke says, that franchises which are not of an annual yearly value cannot be devised; and therefore if the King grants bona et catalla felonum, waifs, estrays, or any other kind of franchise which is not of an annual value, it is not devisable. But franchises of a certain value, and not restrained to the person of the grantee and his heirs may be devised.

§ 15. Franchifes, though not of an annual value,

will however pass by devise as appurtenant to other things of an annual value. Thus, in Butler and Baker's case it is said, if a man be seised of a manor to which a court leet, waif, estray, or any other here-ditament which is not of any annual value, is appendent or appurtenant, devises the manor with the appurtenances, these shall pass as incidents to the

AnAuthority.
1 Inft. 113 a.

manor.

§ 16. An authority over lands and tenements may be given by devife to a stranger; and an authority to fell

fell lands has frequently been given by devise, and has been held to be within the statute of wills.

§ 17. Contingent remainders, and all other contingent estates and interests in lands are now held to be devisable, though formerly an opinion prevailed that they did not pass by a will made previous to their vesting.

Contingent Estates and Interests.

Fearne Con. Rem. 537.

§ 18. John Selwin being tenant for life, with remainder to his fon John in tail; the father and fon joined in a deed of bargain and fale, dated 20th April 1751, to make a tenant to the pracipe for the purpose of fuffering a common recovery, the uses of which were declared to be to the father for life, remainder to the fon in fee. Trinity term began that year on the 7th of June; on the 8th John the fon made his will, whereby he disposed of all his real estates. In the fame term, a writ of entry was fued out, returnable quinden. Trin. which was the 17th of June; and the recovery was completed the fame term. John Selwin, the testator, died soon after the return of the writ of entry: and the question was, whether the lands comprised in the recovery passed by the will, it having been made before the return day of the writ of entry? It was contended, that the testator had only a future executory use, at the time of making his will, not a present use; for the statute could not draw the estate to the use, until the possibility—that is, the completion of the recovery—had actually happened; and that this future executory use was not devisable.

Selwin v. Selwin, 1 Black. R, 222. 251. 2 Burr. 1131.

g's Bench certified their opinion neery, that the lands paffed by Mansfield, in a subsequent case, said that, if the practice of the give his reasons, he was prepared the concurrence of his brethren, springing, and executory uses, who was to take was certain, so be descendible, were devisable.

ne, laid down by Lord Mansfeld med in the two following cases.

levised all his real estates in trust and, if he should die without issue hat all his estates should go to and assigns. Cochran devised all he was seised in possession, rent to the plaintist, and died in the rubb the son, who afterwards died out issue.

by the devisee of Cochran, a questher the possibility given to Cochran d Chancellor Northington said, "I my doubts since I was twenty-sive at these contingent interests were hstanding some old authorities to sent the question, however, into in the case of Selwin and Selwin, on of the parties; and the certisicate " ficate of the judges in that case implies, I think, " that they agreed with me in this opinion."

\$20. A testator devised his dwelling house, &c. to his Roe v. Jones brother T.L. until his T.L.'s youngest son J. or any other R. 30. of his younger fons should attain the age of twentyone years; and, in case he should have no younger fon who should attain that age, but only one fon that should attain it, then until such only son should attain that age. And when his faid nephew J. or any other of the younger fons of the faid T. L. should attain the age of twenty-one years, then he gave his faid dwelling house, &c. unto his faid nephew J. or unto such other fon as for the time being as should be a younger fon of his faid brother T. L. and should first attain his age of twenty-one years, and to the heirs and affigns of fuch younger fon for ever. The testator left his faid brother his heir at law, and T. and the faid J. the fons (and only iffue) of his faid brother. 3. died under twenty-one years of age; and afterwards T. in the lifetime of his father T. L. devised "all his " worldly estate of what nature or kind soever, whether in possession, remainder, or reversion, that he " should die seised or possessed of, interested in, or intitled to, invested in, or should belong to him at " his decease, wheresoever or howsoever, in any " manner or wife," unto his wife in fee. Upon this case three questions arose; first, whether there was a vested interest in T.? Secondly, whether, if it was contingent, it was devisable? And thirdly, whether it passed by the will?

Title XXXVII. Devise. Cb. iii. § 20, 21.

Lord Loughborough said, the discussion of the sirst question was necessary; for, taking it to be a springing contingent executory use in T., they were all of opinion that it was devisable, and passed by his will. And he observed upon the case of Moor v. Hawkins above cited, that it was a liberal and right determination, and judgment was given accordingly.

R.

§ 21. Upon a writ of error into the Court of King's Bench, that court confirmed the decision of the Common Pleas; and Lord Kenyon observed, that the statute, for enabling persons "having" any manors, lands, &c. to devise, must mean, " having an interest in the lands." And he distinguished between such a contingent interest and a mere possibility, like that which an heir has from his ancestor; which was nothing more than the hope of a fuccession, and was not fubject to disposition; and his Lordship hoped the point would be considered to be fully at reft. Ashurst, J. faid, the plain meaning of the statute was, that every person who had a valuable interest in lands, should have the power of disposing of it by will.--Buller J. observed, that, if it were such an interest as was descendible, it seemed strange to say it was not also devisable; that they must both be governed by the fame principle; and that it was a found distinction which had been taken by the Chief Justice, between a bare possibility and a possibility accompanied with an interest. And Grose, J. remarked, that the fourth section of the 34 and 35 Hen. 8. c. 5., which was explanatory of 32 Hen. 8. c. 1., declared that all persons baving a sole estate or interest in lands, &c. might devise:

devise; which did not include a bare possibility or hope of succession, but a possibility accompanied with an interest.

Vide Perry v. Philips, 1 Vef Jun. 251.

§ 22. Littleton fays, that if there be two joint-tenants in fee, of lands devisable by custom, and one of them devises his share, it is void; because no devise can take effect until after the death of the devisor, and by that event the lands become immediately vested in the other joint-tenants by survivorship.

A Jointtenancy not devisable. Lit. f. 287. 1 Inft. 185 a.

§ 23. In conformity to this principle the statute 34 and 35 Hen. 8. only enables persons having a sole estate in see simple, or seised in see simple in coparcenary or in common to devise, which excludes estates held in joint-tenancy. And in Butler and Baker's case, 35 Eliz. it was laid down that the law only considers what estate the devisor had at the time of making his will, without regard to any subsequent event; from which it sollows and has been settled, that a devise by a joint-tenant, who afterwards severs the joint-tenancy, is void; because the devisor was joint-tenant when he made his will.

3 Rep 25. Poph. 87.

were seised of the premises in question as joint-tenants in fee. Richard Gilbert on the 20th of January 1754, made his will and thereby devised in these words. Imprimis, I give and bequeath all my part, right, title, and interest, which I have in an estate jointly with my sister Frances Sophia Gilbert, to my wife Jane Gilbert. By indentures of lease and release Richard Gilbert and

Swift v. Roberts, 3 Burr. 1488. 1 Black. R., 476. his fister made a partition, and severed the jointtenancy, and the estate in question was conveyed to Richard, in fee. The question was, whether the will was good. And the court was clearly and unanimously of opinion that a will made by a joint-tenant during the continuance of the jointure, was not a good will, even as to his share of the estate, under the statute of wills, notwithstanding a subsequent severance of the joint-tenancy by a partition, unless there was a republication of it after the partition.

The Tellator mast be seised.

§ 25. When the feudal doctrine of nonalienation began to fubfide, and some persons were allowed to dispose of their lands by will, a devise was considered to be in the nature of an appointment to uses. Cowp.R.305. courts of law, therefore, held, that a devise affecting lands could operate only on fuch real estates, as the

testator had at the time of executing his will, and not upon any lands acquired afterwards.

Vide 2 Vel. Jun. 427.

§ 26. The statutes of wills adopt the same principle, for the words of these statutes are, " all and every " person and persons having manors," &c. or having a sole estate, &c.; from which, it follows, that the

3 Rep. 30 b.

devisor must have the estate at the time of making his will, for he cannot devise what he has not in him at the time of devising. And in Butler and Baker's case, the judges commenting on the word having, in the statutes of wills, say,—If it be asked, quis potest legare? the makers of the act answer, every person having manors, &c. not every person generally,

§ 27. A Person

Cook, 1 Salk. 239. 3 Bro.

§ 27. A person devised all such such sums of money, lands, tenements, goods, chattels, and estates whatsoever, wherewith at the time of his decease he should Parl Ca. 19. be possessed or invested, to his wife: the testator, nine years after making his will, received a fum of money in right of his wife, which he laid out in the purchase of an estate in Kent of the nature of gavelkind, and died without having republished his will. The heir at law of the testator entered, but his widow brought an ejectment to recover the possession. The jury found a special verdict flating the above facts, and that, by the custom of gavelkind, any tenant being seised of lands in fee, may devise the same by will in writing. fingle question upon the verdict was, whether the lands in question, being purchased after the making of the will, could by law pass by the will, there having been no republication after the purchase. The court were unanimously of opinion, that the lands did not pass. And Lord Chief Justice Holt said, the lands purchased after the execution of the will did not pass by it, because the law of England was plain as to this point by all the precedents; and the law was the same of lands devised by custom, as of lands devised by the statute. And whenever a will was pleaded, it was always faid that the testator was seised in see, and, being so seised, made his will; which plainly shewed, that it was absolutely necessary he should be seised in see, at the time of making his will. The judgment was affirmed by the House of Lords.

§ 28. The devisor must not only be actually seised continue of the lands at the time of making his will, but must continue

And muft 11 Mod. 128. Rep. Temp. Holt 748.

Title XXXVIII. Devife: Ch. iii. § 28-31.

continue to be seised of them until the time of his death; for a devise cannot take effect, unless the Ab. Tit. devisor dies seised: and, therefore, it is a good plea against the devisee, that the devisor did not die seised; so that, if a person devises his lands, and is afterwards disseised, and dies before entry, the devise is void. But if the devisor re-enters, the devise becomes again valid according to the opinion of Lord Chief Justice Holt; because, when a man is differsed, and re-enters, the disseise is considered as never having been out of possession.

- ption. § 29. There are a few cases in which it has been determined, that a devise operated upon property which the devisor had not at the time of making his will.
- k. 238. § 30. Thus, where a person devised his manor of A., and, before his decease, a tenancy escheated; it was admitted, that it would pass to the devisee, as being part of the manor.
- with the appurtenances, and all his messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in the parish of King's Walden, to W. Hale Esq. Mr. Hale, after making his will, purchased a copyhold parcel of the said manor, and held of himself as lord of the manor, and the same was surrendered to the use of Mr. Hale and his heirs. It was determined, that this copyhold passed by the will of Mr. Hale, because, in the eye of the law, the tenants of the manor are only tenants at will to the lord, who is seised in see of the whole. When

the lord, in this case, made his will, it operated upon the whole manor, including the demesnes and services; and, when the copyhold in question was purchased by him, it was still part of the manor, and passed by a devise of the manor.

§ 32. Where articles are executed for the purchase of lands, and, before a conveyance of the legal effate is made, the purchaser devises the estate and dies, such devise will be held good in equity. For although, according to the strict rules of law, the devisor had not lands within the statute of wills, until a conveyance of the legal estate be executed, yet, after the execution of the articles, the vendor is deemed to be feifed only in trust for the purchaser, who is considered in a court of equity as the real owner of the lands; and, therefore, in equity, he will be allowed to dispose of them.

Lands contracted for are devisable. Davie v. Beardsham, 1 Cha. Ca. 39. Acherley v. Vernon, 9 Mod. 78.

- § 33. Where an agreement of this kind is not to be carried into execution until a future day, and, previous to fuch day, the purchaser makes his will, yet the lands thus agreed for will pass by such will.
- § 34. By articles dated April 1706, it was agreed between the vendors and the agent of the purchaser, Prec.Ch. 320. that the possession of the lands, agreed to be purchased, should be delivered at Michaelmas following, and proper conveyances be executed; and the agent covenanted that the purchase-money should be paid, when possesfion was delivered. In June following, the purchaser

Greenhill v. Greenhill,

made

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. iii. 5 34. his will; and the question was, whether these affed by it.

I Comper decreed that they did: and, upon an to Lord Keeper Harcourt, it was argued by leph Jekyll and Mr. How, that this decree ought everled. They took a distinction between an ent for the immediate purchase of lands, and in agreement for the future purchase therethis was. They agreed that, if the articles en for the present purchase of these lands, the would immediately have become a trustee for chaser, and then a devise of them would have good in equity. But, here, the possession was be delivered until Michaelmas following, nor y money to be paid before that time; and them rehaser had no power to devise them sooner.

the other fide, it was faid in support of the delat these lands were bound immediately from the on of the articles; that the possession, not being elivered until a future time, made no difference ity. That, if the purchaser had died before limas, the equity would have descended to the and he might have brought a bill against the out of the personal estate.

l Keeper faid, he faw no reason to wary this dene thought that such future interest was deviss well as if it had been in possession; that the lands lands and money were mutually bound by the articles, and, therefore, he affirmed the decree.

§ 35. Even a parol agreement for the purchase of lands, which is admitted, fo as to be binding on the parties, notwithstanding the statute of frauds, will vest fuch an interest in the purchaser, as he may devise by his will.

§ 36. In the year 1743, a parol agreement was Potter v. made between Brown as agent for Mrs. Hughes, and Mr. Potter and Westley as agents for the Archbishop of Canterbury, for the purchase of an estate in the Isle of Wight. The plan and particulars of the estate were delivered to Westley; and, June 7th 1744, the parties met; a price was fixed; and it was agreed by parol, that the purchase should be completed the Christmas following. In July 1744, the title-deeds were delivered to Westley, to abstract, and deliver to the purchaser's counsel, which was done in April 1745. The further proceeding was interrupted by the claim of William Huxley to part of the estate. A bill was filed: and it was referred to the Master to inquire into this contract, who reported in February 1746, that it was a beneficial one; and the next day, Westley received instructions from the Archbishop to draw conveyances, which he did, by preparing a lease and release to make the Archbishop tenant of the freehold, for suffering a recovery, to the use of the Archbishop and his heirs, and a deed of bargain and fale, which was approved of on behalf of the Archbishop. On the 17th of Vol. VI. September D

September 1746, they were carried to the Archbishop, who returned them to be engrossed; and they were actually engrossed in his lifetime, but were not executed as intended.

The Archbishop had made his will in 1745; and on the 10th of April 1747, long after this agreement, made a codicil ratifying and confirming his will. And the question was, whether the estate thus agreed for should pass by his will and codicil?

Sir John Strange M. R. said, one circumstance was wanting,—the reducing the agreement into writing according to the statute of frauds; which, if done in 1744, the estate would certainly be considered as the Archbishop's, in equity, from that time. But, though an agreement was not reduced into writing, and signed by the party, yet it was well known that, if confessed or in part carried into execution, it would be binding on the parties, and here was the sulless admission thereof. And, as the will was re-published by the codicil, it would pass this estate.

§ 37. There must, however, be express articles, or a positive agreement, for the purchase of an estate, entered into, and completed, before the execution of a will, otherwise such an estate will not pass by it.

Longford v. Pitt, 2 P. Wms 629 § 38. Mr. Long ford entered into articles with Governor Pitt, for the fale of lands in Cornwall. Governor Pitt, long before the execution of the articles, made

made his will: and the question was, whether the lands comprised in the articles passed by the will? And it was held that they did not.

§ 39. A term for years, purchased after the execu- And Terms tion of a will, passes by it; because it is only a chattel real: and the will, in this instance, operates as a testament, and not as a devise, either by custom or by 3 Atk. 176. statute.

for Years acquired after the Will. 1P.Wms.575.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. IV.

Of Devises of Copybolds.

lopyholds devisable by Surrender to Uses. I Surrender to the Use of a Will bars an Intail. In equitable Interest is devisable without a Surrender.

- 39. An equitable Intail barred by a Will.
- 21. Where a Surrender will be fupplied.
- 26. Surrender not supplied where Freebolds pass.

Section 1.

knight service, and in socage, they do not exto copyhold estates. But a power of devising has long been indirectly exercised by an applicaof the doctrine of uses, similar to that which was ntly resorted to, in respect to freehold lands; the holder surrenders his estate to the use of his last and then disposes of it by his will, which operates declaration of the uses of the surrender, and not devise under the statute of wills.

2. By the general custom of all manors every nolder has a right to surrender his estate to the f his will; and in a modern case it was held that ere was a custom in a manor that copyholds should

should not be surrendered to the use of a will, such a custom would be deemed void.

- § 3. An estate in remainder or reversion in a copyhold may be furrendered to the use of a will, as well as an estate in possession.
- § 4. It was held in 10 Jac. that where a copyholder Semaine v. furrenders his estate to the use of his will, and after- 1 Bulft, 209. wards makes a will, the lands do not pass by the will, but by the furrender; for the will is only declaratory of the uses of the surrender.

- § 5. Where a woman furrenders a copyhold to the use of her will, and afterwards marries, the furrender is suspended during the marriage; and a devise of the copyhold by the wife is void, notwithstanding that by articles previous to the marriage the husband agreed that she should have power to devise.
- § 6. Ann Thornbury, widow, furrendered a copy- George v. hold estate to the use of her will. Soon after she Amb. 627. married, but previous thereto she entered into articles reciting the furrender, and that the intended husband agreed that she should have power to settle her estate, or to devise the same during coverture without his contradiction. The wife made her will reciting her power under the articles. The question was whether this devise was good. Lord Ch. Just. Willes delivered the opinion of the court, and laid down these two propositions. 1st, That a feme covert could not make a will of lands. 2d, That the furrender by her

when

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. iv. § 6-9.

a fole, became void, or at least was suspended by marriage. 'As to the first it was contrary to the and 35 Hen. 8. that a feme covert should make a ; for by that statute wills made by feme coverts e void in law. But it was argued that the confent he husband, by the articles, gave her the power levifing, though by law she could not otherwise do and many cases were cited to prove this doctrine. they were all cases of wills of personal estates le by virtue of fuch an agreement. And there ld be no doubt but the husband might give her ower to dispose of her personal estate, because the marriage he had the fole property in and ver over it; but it was otherwise of lands of inhence belonging to the wife, and he could not give fuch a power to make a will in prejudice of her at law. Judgment that the will was void.

- . 7. In the case of a surrender by a copyholder to use of his will, and a devise thereof, the devise no title till he is admitted.
- 3 8. A furrender of a copyhold to the use of a l, only operates on the estate which the copyholder at the time of the surrender.
- 5 9. Thomas Warde made his will, and reciting the was seised of a copyhold estate (whereas in the was not) devised all his real estate, &c. He erwards purchased a copyhold estate, and surrened it to such uses as he by his last will and testant should appoint, and afterwards died without making

making any other will. Lord Hardwicke held that the copyhold did not pass by the will, 1st, Because the furrender was to a future appointment. 2d, Because the words of the will did not extend to an after purchased copyhold, but only to such of which he was feifed at the time of making it.

§ 10. It was refolved in a modern case that where Doe v. a copyholder, having an estate pur auter vie, surrendered all his estate in possession, remainder, or ex- 63. pectancy to the use of his will; and afterwards acquired the fee by descent, such fee did not pass by the will.

Cowling, 6 Term Rep.

§ 11. A copyhold estate purchased after a will is made does not pass by it, unless the surrender of such copyhold to the uses of the will be considered as a republication of it.

Harris v. Cutler, 1 Term Rep. 438. note. Vide ch. 7.

- § 12. A surrender to the use of a will is not defeated by a subsequent surrender, where there is no actual admittance on fuch fubsequent surrender.
- § 13. A copyhold estate was surrendered in 1733 to the use of Thomas Gower and Elizabeth his wife, for their lives, remainder to the heirs and assigns of Thomas. They were accordingly admitted and Thomas Gower then furrendered to the use of his will. the death of Elizabeth Gower, Thomas in 1744 furrendered the premises to the intent that the lord should regrant them to the use of the said Thomas and his heirs, till his marriage with Sarah Burroughs, and then D 4

Thrustout v. Cunningham, z Black. R.

then to the use of the said Thomas and Sarah for their respective lives, remainder to the heirs of their two bodies, remainder to the right heirs of Thomas. No admission was had by Thomas under this surrender. In 1757 Thomas Gower devised the premises to Sarab his wife for life, remainder to John Gower his youngest fon and Martha his wife for their lives, and died. The question was, whether the will was good. It was argued against the will that by the surrender in 1744 every thing passed out of Thomas Gower the devisor, confequently there was an end of the furrender to the use of his will in 1733. And never having been admitted, nor of course surrendered to the use of his will, in consequence of the new limitations in 1744 nothing passed by the will of 1757. But the court unanimously held that the old use in see granted to Thomas Gower in 1733 to which he was then admitted, and which was surrendered to the use of his will, was not taken out of him by the new limitation and furrender of 1744. He had therefore no occasion to be re-admitted to it, for the purpole of furrendering to the use of his will, but should be construed to be in, as of his old estate.

A Surrender to the Use of a Will bars an

Intail. Tit. 137. c. 2. £ 18.

Moore v. Moore, Amb. 270. 2 Vcf. 601.

§ 14. It has been stated in the preceding title that in many manors a furrender to a stranger and his heirs, was fufficient to bar an intail. This doctrine has been extended to furrenders made to the use of the surrenderor's will. And Lord Hardwicke has faid, "Where a copyholder seised of an estate

" tail, furrenders to the use of his will, if intails by " the custom of the manor are not barrable by reco-

" verv

- very or fine, but by furrender; in fuch case the
- " furrender to the use of his will, not only effectuates
- "the will, but operates as a bar to the intail."
- § 15. The same point was determined by the Court Carr v. of Common Pleas, it being held by three judges that 2 Vel. 604. the intail of a copyhold was barred by a furrender to the use of a will, where there was no custom of barring intails by recovery against the opinion of Lord Ch. Justice Willes, who thought that a recovery was the proper mode.

§ 16. Where the legal estate in a copyhold is outstanding, the person entitled to the equitable interest may devife it without a furrender: for otherwise it could not be disposed of by will, as a person who has 1 Ves. 489. not the legal estate, cannot make a surrender.

An Equitable Interest is devisable without a Surren-

§ 17. It follows from this principle that an equity Kingv. King. of redemption of a copyhold may be devised without a furrender; provided the mortgagee has been ad- i Bro. R. 481. mitted. But a mere furrender of a copyhold estate to the use of a mortgagee, without admittance, does not devest the legal estate out of the copyholder; for he still continues tenant to the lord; and must therefore furrender to the use of his will.

§ 18. Thus in a modern case it appeared that copy- Kenebelv. hold estates were not furrendered to the use of a will, but being in mortgage they were surrendered to the 30. use of the mortgagees, which was urged in answer to the objection for want of a furrender to the use of the

8 Vef. Jun.

will.

Doe v. Wroot, 5 East R. 132. will. The mortgagees had not been admitted. Lord *Eldon* held clearly that under these circumstances there must be a surrender by the mortgagor to the use of his will.

An equitable Intail barred by a Will.

§ 19. A will alone bars an intail of a trust estate in a copyhold without a surrender.

Otway v. Hudson, 2 Vern. 583. § 20. A. was tenant in tail of the trust of a copy-hold, remainder to J. S. A. requested the trustees to surrender to him in tail, which they resusing, he brought a bill to compel them, and they put in their answers. Then A. died, but pending the suit he went to the lord's court, and desired to be admitted to surrender, which was resused, because the legal estate was in the trustees. Upon which A. by will devised the premises to his wise, Sc. Lord Cowper decreed the estate to go according to the will, there having been no laches in the testator; and having devised the estate to the uses and purposes in his will, his Lordship conceived that was sufficient to bar the intail of a

Contra, 1 H. Black. R. 461.

trust.

defect.

Where Surrender will be
supplied.
Tit. 37.
ch. 1. s. 77.

Ch. 1. s. 77.

S 21. It has been stated in the preceding title that
the Court of Chancery will supply the surrender of a
copyhold in favour of three descriptions of persons,
namely, creditors, wife, and children. And therefore, if a person devises a copyhold for the benefit of
persons of this kind, without surrendering it to the
use of his will, a court of equity will supply the

§ 22. In the case of creditors, the court will only supply a furrender, where the other estates, which are liable to the payment of the debts, are not fufficient.

§ 23. A person devised all his real estates to Drake v. trustees, for payment of his debts; and, having freehold and copyhold, he neglected to furrender the copyholds to the use of his will.

Robinson. I P. Wms.

Upon an application to the Court of Chancery, to supply a furrender of the copyholds, the Lord Chancellor directed that the Master should first see, whether there was enough without the copyhold, for payment R. 325. of the debts.

Raftor v. Stock. 1 Ab. Eq.123. Bixbey v. Eley, 2 Bro.

§ 24. In supplying a surrender in favour of a wife, the court respects the claim of the heir at law, so far, 1 Salk. 187. that it will not interpose, if the heir would thereby be left unprovided for. But, in a modern case, the Chapman v. court supplied a surrender in favour of a wife, against a distant heir not provided for by the testator, though provided for aliunde. And, in another case, the want Hills v. of a furrender was supplied in favour of a widow against co-heirestes, daughters of the devisor, and 557. infant grand-daughters; by deceafed daughters; the Chancellor being of opinion, that the court is to look only to the object, not to the circumstances of the parties; as, whether the heir has a provision or not.

Townsend,

Bro. R. 229.

Downton, 5 Vel. Jun.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. iv. \$ 25-27.

\$ 25. With respect to younger children, there have been various opinions as to the circumstances, under which the court ought to interfere. And it was formerly held, that the court would not fupply a furv. Rofs. b. Eq. render in favour of younger children, where the heir would thereby be difinherited; or the younger children put in a better fituation than the eldest fon. was afterwards laid down that, if the heir was pro-Ŧ. vided for, though not by the testator, but aliunde, a tc, o.R. furrender would be fupplied in favour of the younger children; and that the court would not enquire into the quantum of the provision; and that a younger thold v. rbold, child being put in a better condition than the elder ։ն յալ. was no objection.

mrender upplied e Freepass. § 26. Where there is a general devise, equally applicable to freehold and copyhold estates, and the testator has freehold estates to satisfy the words of the will, a court of equity will not supply a surrender.

§ 27. A person, seised of freehold and copyhold v. Rofs. ı. Eq. lands in Bereford, devised all his lands in Bereford to his wife and her heirs, without having furrendered the copyhold to the use of his will. The court refused to supply the want of a surrender, beck v. ck, cause the words of the devise were fatisfied by the , Eq. freehold lands, which passed by the will; and it is v. was not certain that the testator intended to give the me, in Cha. copyholds.

§ 28. A person having freehold and copyhold Byze v. Byze, estates, devised all the rest and residue of his estate to his wife, in fee; but did not furrender his copyholds to the use of his will. The widow insisted, that equity ought to supply a surrender of the copyhold.

2 Vcf. 164.

Sir John Strange, M. R. faid, "There is no case, where there is freehold as well as copyhold, and " no notice taken of the copyhold in the will, that 44 the court has supplied the want of a surrender; where copyhold lands are devised expressly to wife, children, or for creditors, nothing passes in point " of law for want of a furrender. However, a court " of equity supplies it in these favourable instances, " for the purposes of the will, but not for others, " which is on the plain declaration of the testator, by " expressly naming copyhold estates. If he had none 66 but copyholds, all my real estate would have been "fufficient to pass the copyhold, though no surrender " had been made to the use of the will; but the er general heir at law, or heir by particular custom, " has always been so favoured as not to be disinherited by implication or inference from the particular "wording of the will. The cases, that have been, 46 have turned on the construction of these words. " upon the question of fact, whether the testator had " what would answer the words of his will, on which 46 the words would operate? Then the furrender " should not be supplied, as was the case before Lord "Talbot in 1735, and the case of Bethlem hospital, 66 10 June 1736, that all my lands would not pass " copyhold

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. iv. 5 28.

- 4 copyhold lands not furrendered, if there were other
- 4 lands to fatisfy it. But, if furrendered, that will
- 4 explain the general words and pass it; there is
- ' that, which would come within the description of
- e real estate. Then, without surrender to the use of
- 4 the will, or mention of copyhold, the court will
- " not take it from the heir."

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. V.

Of the Solemnities necessary to a Devise.

- § 1. Statute of Frauds.
- 2. What is required by this Sta-
 - 3. Writing.
 - 7. Signing.
- 14. Attestation by Witnesses.
- 19. Wills and Codicils must be feparately attested.
- 24. The Witnesses must see the whole Will.
- 26. And must attest in the Prefence of the Testator.
- 35. The Witnesses may attest at different Times.
- 38. Who may be Witneffes.
- 43. Publication.
- 46. A Person cannot empower bimself to give Lands by a Will not duly attested.

- 48. Wills that charge Lands are within the Statute.
- 49. Exception. Codicil giving Legacies.
- 51. Wills of Trust are within the Statute.
- 53. And of Mortgages and Equities of Redemption.
- 54. And of Money to be laid out in Lands.
- 55. And Wills made abroad.
- 56. Wills of Terms for Years not within the Statute.
- 57. Exception. Terms to at-
- 59. Wills of Copybolds not within the Statute.
- 65. Wills may be proved in Chancery.

Section 1.

As the statutes of wills did not require any precise form or ceremony in a devise of lands, but only that it should be in writing, and, as lands devisable by custom would pass by a will made by purol only, an infinite number of frauds were thereby committed. To prevent these, it was enacted by the statute 29 Cha. 2. c. 3. s. 5. "That all devises and bequests of any lands or tenements devisable, either by force of the statute

Statute of Frauds.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. v. 5 1-4:

on of Kent, or the custom of any borough, or any ther particular custom, shall be in writing, and igned by the party so devising the same, or by some ther person in his presence and by his directions, and shall be attested and subscribed in the presence of the devisor by three or four credible witnesses, or life they shall be utterly void and of none effect."

- 2. In consequence of this statute, the following umstances are now absolutely necessary to the value of a devise. 1st, That it be written. 2d, That signed by the party himself, or by some other in presence, and by his express directions. 3d, That e attested by three witnesses in the presence of the ator.
- 3. A devise of lands and tenements must be reed into writing in the lifetime of the devisor; for
 not sufficient that it be put into writing after his
 th, being first declared by words only; for then it
 ut a nuncupative will.
- paper or parchment, or in what language, whether lift, Latin, French, &c. or in what kind of handing or character a device is written, so that it be and legible, and the meaning be sufficiently apent. Neither is it material, whether it be written large, or by notes usual or unusual; or whether is of money given be expressed at full length or in figures,

figures, provided it be free from all doubt and ambiguity.

§ 5. Thus, where a bill, in which legacies charged on lands were written in figures, was fcarcely legible, it was referred to a master to examine and see what those legacies were, and he was directed to call to his affistance persons skilled in the art of writing.

- § 6. A will may be written at feveral times, and on feveral sheets of paper unconnected with each other; although the proper mode, where a will is written on feveral sheets of paper, is, to join them together by means of a piece of tape fealed.
- § 7. The next circumstance necessary to the validity Signing. of a devise of lands, is, that it be figned by the testator, or by some other person in his presence, and by his direction. The latter part of this clause was inferted for the benefit of those persons, who, from sickness, or some other misfortune, are incapable of writing their names, or making their marks.

Where a will is written on several sheets of paper, it is the usual practice for the testator to sign each of them.

§ 8. Signing was chosen rather than sealing and delivery, which are the folemnities required in deeds, because seals, which were formerly a great mark of distinction in families, were much disused when this E Vol. VI. **ftatute**

statute was made, and people sealed with any seal; so that figning, as used in the civil law, was preferred.

§ 9. If the testator's name be written by himself in any part of the will, either at the beginning or the end, it will be confidered as a sufficient signing within the statute.

Lemayne v. Stanley, 3 Lev. 1.

5 10. A person wrote his will with his own hand, beginning thus: " I John Stanley make this my last will and testament," and put his seal, but did not fubscribe his name to it. This was adjudged to be a good will, for, being written by himself, and his name in the will, it was a fufficient figning within the statute, which does not appoint where the will shall be figned, at the top, bottom, or margin; and, therefore, a figning in any part was sufficient. And three of the judges were of opinion, that the putting his seal had, of itself, been a sufficient signing within the statute of frauds; for fignum was no more than a mark that it was his will.

§ 11. The position laid down in the preceding case, that fealing a will is a fufficient figning within the statuté of frauds, is very doubtful; for, although Sir John Strange reports, that in 13 Geo. 1. on an iffue

directed out of Chancery devisavit vel non, the Chief

Justice ruled, that sealing a will, was a signing within

Warneford, v. Warneford, 2 Stra. 764.

Smith v. Evans, 1 Will.

R. 313.

the statute of frauds, yet, in a subsequent case, 25 Geo. 2. it was faid by Lord Chief Baron Parker, Baron Clive, and Baron Smythe, (absent Legge), that the opinion advanced in 3 Lev. 1. that sealing was a sufficient sign-

ing,

ing, was a strange doctrine; for, if it were so, it would be very easy for a person to forge any man's will, by only forging the names of any three obscure dead persons, as there would be no occasion to forge 2 Ves. 459. the testator's name. And the Barons said, if the same should come in question again, they should not hold that fealing a will only, was a fufficient figning within the statute.

§ 12. The want of figning all the sheets of a will cannot be supplied; so that, although the devisor should intend to fign, but becomes incapable of doing it by fickness, such a will cannot take effect.

§ 13. A will was prepared and written on five sheets Right v. of paper, and a feal affixed to the last, and also the Doug. 241. form and attestation written on it. The will was then read over to the testator in the presence of three witnesses, who afterwards subscribed it; and the testator fet his mark to the two first sheets in their presence, and attempted to fet it to the third, but being unable from the weakness of his hand, he said I cannot do it, but it is my will. After this, the three witnesses went away, being defired to come again. The testator died without fetting his mark to the three last sheets. Lord Mansfield faid, that the will was not duly executed, for, when the testator figned the two first sheets, he had an intention of figning the other sheets, but was not able; he, therefore, did not mean the fignature of the two first sheets as a signature of the whole will. There never was a figning of the whole. The court, to be fure, would lean in support of a fair will, and

Fitle XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. v. § 13—16. efeat it for a slip in form, where the meaning of atute had been complied with. Adjudged, that ill was not duly executed.

- of frauds is, that a will shall be attested and subed in the presence of the testator, by three or sour
 ble witnesses. And the statute, in this instance,
 ts the mode prescribed by the civil law, in testais solemnibus; not as laid down in Justinian's Ines, but as reformed by the code in the Novels.
 the evil meant to be remedied by the framers of
 latute of frauds, was, the secret and private mann which wills were formerly executed.
- 15. Where the testator owns his handwriting bethe witnesses, it is sufficient, though they do not
 tim sign his name. And in the case of Stonebouse v.
 yn, in proving a will disposing of real estates, the
 f was full, that the three subscribing witnesses did
 cribe their names in the presence of the testatrix;
 one of them said, he did not see the testatrix sign,
 that she owned, at the same time that the witnesses
 cribed, that the name signed to the will was her own
 lwriting, which his Honour, (Sir Joseph Jekyll),
 without all doubt, to be sufficient.
- 16. On a bill to establish a will against an heir at he, by his answer, made a doubt whether, as all witnesses did not see the testator sign, this was a l attestation within the statute.

Lord Hardwicke.—" This has been vexata questio a " great while, whether, to make a will effectual ac-66 cording to the statute, the signing of the testator "thereto should be in the presence of all, or, indeed, " of any of the witnesses; or, whether the testator's " acknowledging the handwriting to that will to be his, 46 is not fufficient? It is infifted, that the word at-" tested superadded to subscribed, imports they shall " be witneffes to the very act and factum of figning, 46 and that the testator's acknowledging that act to " have been done by him, and that it is his handwrit-"ing, is not fufficient to enable them to attest, that is, " it must be an attestation of the thing itself, not of " the acknowledgement. To be fure, it must be an " attestation of the thing in some sense; but the ques-" tion is, if they attest upon the acknowledgement of 46 the testator that it is his handwriting, whether that " is not an attestation of the act: and whether it is " not to be construed as agreeable to the rules of law " and evidence, as all other attestation and figning " might be proved? At the time of making the act " of parliament, and ever fince, if a bond or deed is " executed by the person who signs it, afterwards the " witnesses are called in, and before those witnesses he " acknowledges it to be his hand, that is always con-" fidered to be a figning by the person executing, " and is an attestation of it by them. The case of Ante s. 10? " Lemayne v. Stanley is an express authority, and " must have been by an acknowledgement of the 66 testator's hand. No answer can be given to it, " but a presumption that the testator might write the " will in the presence of the three witnesses, but this 66 is E 3

" is not a natural prefumption; for, if the fact was
" fo, it would have been found by the jury, as it
" would have put it out of all doubt. Therefore, on
" the penning of the act, and the authorities, my opi" nion is, that this will is well executed: but, being
" a question of law, if the heir insists on having it
" tried, I will direct a trial." A trial was accordingly directed.

S 17. The doctrine here laid down, was soon after Ellisv. Smith, 1Vef Jun. 10.

fully confirmed by a determination of Lord Hardwicke, assisted by Sir John Strange, Lord Chief Justice Willes, and Lord Chief Baron Parker, in which, it was unanimously resolved, that the declaration of a testator, before three witnesses, that a paper was his will, was equivalent to signing it before them, and constituted a good will within the sisth section of the statute of frauds, Lord Hardwicke and Lord Chief Justice Willes observed, that if, in a case of separate attestation, the testator

Vide 1 Ves. Jun. 17 n. actually figns the will each time, it is bad, because there are three separate executions, and no one good within the statute.

Harrison v. § 18. It has been determined in a late case, that an Harrison, 8 Vest. Jun. attestation of a devise, by the witnesses setting their marks to the will, was good within the statute of frauds.

Wills and Codicils must be separately attested.

§ 19. Every will, and every codicil, must be separately attested by three witnesses; for the attestation of two witnesses to a will, and of a third witness to a codicil, annexed to that will, is not sufficient. Nor can the attestation of a codicil operate in any case as the

the attestation of a will, to which it is declared to be annexed.

§ 20. A person made his will in writing, by which Leav. Libb. he devised lands, and sealed and published it in the presence of two witnesses only, who subscribed it in his presence. A year after, he caused another writing to be prepared, which recited that he had made his will, and confirmed it in all things, and faid,—" And my will is, that this codicil be taken to be of force, " and part of my will." It was found, that the codicil was figned by two witnesses, one of whom was witness to the will, the other not; and it was further found, that this codicil was distinct from, and not annexed to the will. Lord Chief Justice Holt delivered the opinion of the court, that this will was not duly attested according to the statute, for it had not three witnesses, nor was the codicil sufficient to pass lands.

Rep. Temp. Holt, 743.

§ 21. A person devised freehold lands to a college, Att. General by a will written in his own hand, but not attested by any witness. The testator afterwards made a codicil, attested by four witnesses, wherein he recited his will. It was determined, that the attestation of the codicil could not operate so as to render the will valid; for Pimphrase v. the codicil might be executed in another place, and cited 1 Com. the witnesses might not either see or know any thing Rep. 384of the will.

Gilb. Rep. 5.

§ 22. But if a will be made at several times, although the parts be distinct and separately signed by the teltator, yet, if it appear from circumstances, to

have

Carlton v. Griffin. 2 Bur. 549.

§ 23. John Griffin, upon a sheet of paper v 56 Know all men by the " make the afore-men " ment;" he then pr houses, and subscribed In January 1754, he w the following words: " have laid out, &c. o " called the Lemon, & " pofal, and this not t " part made by me the " my wife shall not be " &c. Witness my ha written on the first and and the memorandum v of the fecond, or the b ten upon the third fide. related only to the perfe fcribed this in the prethen he took the faid sh declared it to be his last fence of the faid three to them, and defired th in his presence, which

question was, whether this will was duly attested according to the statute of frauds,

Lord Mansfield said, the case was accurately stated, for it was not stated to be either a will or a codicil, but a sheet of paper written, &c. At first, in 1752, the testator did not know that any witnesses were necessary. In 1754, he had found they were necessary; then he made a subsequent disposition, which was a memorandum to be added to it. But he did not call it a codicil, nor did the case state it to be so; he plainly considered the whole as one entire disposition; and he expressly declared in the latter, that he did not thereby mean to difannul any part of the former devile or dispositions. There is not a tittle in the latter that relates to the real estate, therefore, the only intent of having the three witnesses was, and must be, to authenticate the former. Then the publication of it was, as of a will, he took up the sheet of paper and said, it is my will, and certainly he did not mean a part of it only, but the whole of it; and he defired them to attest it: all this must relate to the whole that was written on the paper. Adjudged, that the will was duly attested.

§'24. The witnesses ought to see the whole will, for The Witif they only fee the last sheet, on which they subscribe fee the whole their names, it is doubtful whether that be fufficient. But the prefumption is, that all the sheets on which a will is written, is in the room where the witnesses attest, unless the contrary be proved.

nesses must 3 Mod. 263.

§ 25. Sir Thomas Chitty made his will, confifting of two sheets of paper, all in his own handwriting, and figned his name at the bottom of each page. fentences and words were fo connected from the bottom of each page to the top of the next, and particularly from the fourth fide of the first sheet, to the first fide of the fecond sheet, that they were imperfect and nonfenfical if read apart, but clear and intelligible when read together. He also made a codicil in like manner on a fingle fheet. The testator then called in Francis Harding, shewed him both sheets of the will, and his fignature to every page; told him that was his will, and also shewed him the codicil, and defired him to attest both, which he did on the last sheet of the will, and on the codicil, in the presence of the testator, and then left the room. John Vaughan and John Leyland came in immediately afterwards; the testator shewed them the codicil, and the last sheet of the will, and fealed them in their presence; took each of them up, and feverally delivered them as his act and deed, These witnesses then attested the same in the testator's presence, but never saw the first sheet of the will, nor was it produced to them; nor was the fame, or any other paper, on the table. After the testator's death, both sheets of paper were found in his bureau, not pinned together, but wrapped up together with the codicil in one piece of paper. The question was, whether the will was duly attefted according to the statute of fiauds. The cale was feveral times argued before all the Judges in the Exchequer Chamber, and Lord Mansfield acquainted the Bar, that there had been a conference amongst all the Judges, except Mr. Baron Adams,

Adams, who was out of town, upon this case, which was an amicable fuit, to try the real merits of the question. It occurred to the Judges, that the way in which the parties had put the case, did not go to the whole merits; because, if the first sheet was in the room at the time when the latter sheet was executed and attested, there would remain no doubt of its being a good will, and a good attestation of the whole will; but if the first sheet was not then in the room, a doubt might arife whether it was, or was not, a good atteftation as to the real estate. However, no opinion was given or formed by the Judges upon such doubt which might so arise, if it should appear that in fact the first fheet was not then in the room. A will, properly attested, may, by reference to another instrument, establish particular clauses so ascertained by a clear reference, as strongly as if the clauses so referred to had been repeated in the will verbatim; and there were references in this will from one part to another. Every presumption ought to be made by a jury in favour of 381. fuch a will, when there was no doubt of the testator's It was not necessary that the witnesses should attest in the presence of each other, or that the testator should declare the instrument he executed to be his will; or that the witnesses should attest every page, folio, or fheet; or that they should know the contents; or that each folio, page, or sheet, should be particularly shewn to them. This had been settled. But the fact, whether the first sheet of the will was, or was not in the room, at the time of the executing and attesting the latter, might be material to be known. If it was, the jury ought to find for the will generally; and

Acherley v. Vernon, Com, Rep. 381.

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. v. \$ 25-29.

and they ought to find all things favourable to the will. If it was doubtful, whether the first sheet was then in the room or not, they all thought the circumstances sufficient to presume that it was in the room, and that the jury ought to be so directed. But, upon a special verdict, nothing could be presumed; therefore, they were all of opinion, that it ought to be tried over again. And if the jury should be of opinion that it was then in the room, they ought to find for the will generally; and they ought to presume, from the circumstances proved, that the will was in the room.

nuft n the ce of shator. \$ 26. The flatute expressly requires that the witnesses should attest, and subscribe the will, in the presence of the testator, lest another will should be obtuded instead of the real one.

ick v. rick, Vm*,

- § 27. Thus, where a person subscribed his will in the presence of three witnesses, who, for the ease of the testator, went down into another room and subscribed it there, it was held to be void.
- § 28. But if there be a possibility of the testator's seeing the witness attest, it will be sufficient, unless the contrary is proved.

v. ck, 588. Raym. \$ 29. A testator defired the witnesses to go into another room, seven yards distant, to attest his will, in which there was a window broken, through which the testator might see them, and it was held, that this will was well attested according to the statute; for it was sufficient that the testator might see the witnesses, and

not

not necessary that he should actually see them; for, in that case, if a man should turn his back, or look another way, it would vitiate the will: fo if the testator being fick should be in bed, with the curtains close.

§ 30. There were four witnesses to a will, one of Longford v. whom was gone beyond fea; two of them swore that Wms. 740. they faw the will executed by the testator, and that they fubscribed the same in her presence; the third swore that he subscribed the will as a witness in the same room, and at the request of the testatrix. Cowper doubted as to the proof of the execution of the will. And the matter coming on again before Lord Macclesfield, he observed, 1st, That the proper way of examining a witness to prove a will of land, was, that the witness should not only prove the execution of the will by the testator, and his own subscribing it, but likewise, that the rest of the witnesses subscribed their names in the presence of the testator; and then one witness proves the full execution of the will, fince he proves that the testator executed it, and also, that the three witnesses subscribed it in his presence. 2d, He held, that the bare subscribing of the will by the witnesses in the same room did not necessarily imply it to be in the testator's presence, for it might be in a corner of the room, in a clandestine fraudulent way; and then it would not be a subscribing by the witnesses in the testator's presence, merely because in the same room. But it being sworn by the witness that he subscribed the will at the request of the testatrix, and in the same room, this could not be fraudulent, and, therefore, the will was well executed.

§ 31. A woman

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. v. \$ 31-33.

s 31. A woman having a power (though covert) to make a writing in the nature of a will, ordered a will to be prepared, and went to an attorney's office to execute it, but being afthmatic, and the office very hot, fhe retired to her carriage to execute the will, the witnesses attending her, who, after having seen her execute it, returned into the office to attest it, and the carriage was put back to the window of the office, through which, it was sworn by a person who was in the carriage, that the testatrix might see what passed. Immediately after the attestation, the witnesses took the will to her, which she folded up, and put into her pocket. It was decreed, that the will was well attested.

- § 32. Although the witnesses to a will must subscribe in the presence of the testator, yet the statute of
 frauds does not require that this circumstance should
 be taken notice of in the attestation; and, whether
 inserted or not, the fact, if denied, must be left to the
 jury; for neither the insertion nor omission of this circumstance is conclusive.
- for the opinion of the court was, whether it should be left to a jury to determine whether the witnesses to a will, being all dead, set their names in the presence of the testator, and this merely upon circumstances, without any positive proof. Per curian, this is a matter sit to be left to a jury, which is all that is referred to the court; the witnesses, by the statute of frauds, ought to set their names, as witnesses, in the presence of the testatrix, but it is not required by the statute that this should

should be taken notice of in the subscription to the will; and, whether inferted or not, it must be proved. If inferted, it does not conclude, but it may be proved contra, and the verdict may find it contra; then, if not conclusive when inserted, the omission does not conclude it was not fo, and, therefore, must be proved by the best proof which the nature of the thing will admit. In case the witnesses be dead, there cannot probably be any express proof, fince, at the execution of wills, few are present but the devisor and the witnesses; then, as in other cases, the proof must be circumstantial, and here are circumstances. 1st, Three witnesses have fet their names, and it must be intended that they did it regularly. 2d, One witness was an attorney of good character, and may be presumed to understand what ought to be done rather than the contrary; and there may be circumstances to induce a jury to believe, that the witnesses set their hands in the presence of the testatrix, rather than the contrary; and it being a matter of fact, was proper to be left to them. The plaintiff was nonfuited.

§ 34. The same question arose in a subsequent case, Crost . on a trial at Bar in ejectment. The defendant made Pawlet, title under a will, the attestation of which was in these words: "Signed, fealed, published, and declared as and for his last-will, in the presence of us, A.B." &c. The witnesses were all dead, and their hands proved in common form. It was objected, that this was not an execution according to the statute of frauds; and · the hands of the witnesses could only stand as to the 'facts they had subscribed to, and signing in the prefence.

2 Stra. 1100.

fence of the testator was not one. But the court, on the authority of Hands v. James, said to be lest to a jury of a compliance cumstances; and a verdict was given

The Witnelics may atteft at different Times.

\$ 35. By the Roman law, it was the witnesses should be present at the some doubts were formerly enterta presence of all the witnesses at the strequired by the statute of frauds; b blished, that, although the witnesses times, yet it is sufficient.

Anon. 2. Cha. Ca. 109. \$ 36. A will of lands, attefted who at several times subscribed their quest of the testator, but were not pether, was decreed to be well a statute.

Cook v. Parfons, Prec. in Cha. 184 S.P.

Jones v. Lake, 2 Atk. 176 s. \$ 37. In ejectment, a special verd testator signed and executed his will two witnesses, who attested the same Four years after, the testator went of a pen in the presence of a third witnes his name in his presence, and at question was, whether this was a dur will under the statute of frauds. If for the heir at law, that the statute in nesses to subscribe in the testator's prothey should be all present together, that degree of evidence which the statut an attestation of three witnesses, at a

only the weight of one witness. Witnesses to a will not only attest the due execution of it, but likewise, the capacity of the testator at the time of execution. A man might be sane at the time when two of the witnesses attest, and infane when the third attests. could not be confidered as a will till the third witness had figned it, for that completed the act. Mr. Banks argued on behalf of the devisee, that a will, executed in the presence of three witnesses, though they attested it at different times, was good within the statute of frauds, because that statute does not require that all the witnesses should be present at the same time: the requisites under the statute were, that the testator should fign in the presence of three witnesses at least, and that they should attest in his presence, it would, therefore, be adding new requifites, which the act does not mention, and, in fact, making a new law.

Lord Chief Justice Lee .- " This case depends on " the words of the statute; the requisites in the statute " are, that the three witnesses should attest the signing " of the testator, but it does not direct that the three " witnesses should be all present at the same time. "There has been no determination as to this point. In the case of Cook v. Parsons, the testator's signing Ante s. was held good, though it was not before three witnesses at the same time, and the court only doubted whether the testator's barely owning the subscription " to be his before one of the witnesses, was good; 66 but there was no doubt as to the validity of the will, 66 from the execution at different times. Here you 46 have the oaths of three attesting witnesses; this is Vol. VI.

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. v. \$ 37, 38.

the degree of evidence required by the statute, and the same credit is given to three persons at different times, as at the same time. We cannot carry the requisites farther than the statute directs; the act is silent as to this particular; it would, therefore, be making a new requisite. The signing is the same act reiterated; the testator, in the principal case, went over his name again, and declared it to be his last will."

Judgment against the heir at law.

o may be nettes. arr. Rep.

t t Vel. 14- 16.

> § 38. With respect to the persons who are capable of being witnesses to a will, the statute of frauds only mentions the word credible; and, therefore, all those who are capable of being witnesses in any other matter, may also be witnesses to a will. The Judges were, however, formerly, very strict with regard to the competency of the witnesses to a will, for neither a devisee, legatee, or creditor, was allowed to be a competent witness to a will. This occasioned the statute 25 Geo. 2. c. 6. by which it is enacted, fect. 1. " That if any er person attest the execution of a will or codicil, to " whom any beneficial devise, legacy, estate, interest, es gift, or appointment, (except charges on land or " hereditaments for payment of debts), is thereby e given or made, such devise, legacy, &c. shall so far " only as concerns fuch perfon attesting such will or " codicil, or any person claiming under him, be void; " and fuch person shall be admitted as a witness to the 46 execution of fuch will or codicil."

- Sect. 2. In case by any will or codicil, any lands
- or hereditaments be charged with any debts, and
- any creditor, whose debt is so charged, hath attested,
- " or shall attest the execution of such will or codicil,
- every fuch creditor shall be admitted as a witness to
- the execution of fuch will or codicil."
- " Sect 6. The credit of every fuch witness so at-
- " testing the execution of any will or codicil, and
- 46 all circumstances relative thereto, shall be subject
- to the confideration of the court, and the jury before
- whom such witness is examined, or his testimony or
- attestation made use of, or of the court of equity in
- "which his testimony or attestation is made use of."
- § 39. Two celebrated cases have been decided respecting the competence and credibility of witnesses to a will. The first is that of Wyndham v. Chetwynd, in the Court of King's Bench; and the second, is that 414. of Doe on the demise of Hindson v. Kersey, in the Court of Common Pleas; but as they relate to wills made before this statute, it is unnecessary to state them.

1 Burr. R.

§ 40. A legatee may be a witness against a will, because he swears against his own interest, and so is the strongest evidence.

Oxenden v. Penrice, Salk. 691.

§ 41. An infamous person is not a competent witness to a will; and, therefore, it was held, in a modern case, that a person who had been convicted of stealing sheep, was not a competent witness to a will: for it faw, 95.

Pendock v. Makender. 4 Burn. Ecc.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. v. § 42-45.

was the crime that created the infamy, and took away a man's competency, and not the punishment.

mett v. ylor, xVef. L. N. S.

§ 42. It was held by Lord Eldon in a late case, that where one of the witnesses to a codicil had become infane, his handwriting might be proved, as he might be confidered as dead.

dication.

§ 43. A will must also be published, that is, the tellator must do some act from which it can be concluded that he intended the instrument to operate as And Lord Hardwicke has mentioned a case ltk. 161. where, upon a trial at Bar in the Court of King's Bench, the question was, whether the testator had published his will, for there was no doubt of his executing it in the presence of three witnesses, or their attesting it in his presence; which shewed that publication was, in the eye of the law, an effential part of the execution of a will, and not a mere matter of form.

ite v. gły, m. R. 196.

§ 44. The words, figned and published by the faid A. B. as and for his last will and testament, are a sufficient publication; and the delivery of a will as a deed, has been held to be a fufficient publication.

immer v. kion, lura. Ec. w, 319.

§ 45. Thus, where a will was delivered by a testator as his act and deed, and the words fealed and delivered were put above the place where the witneffes were to subscribe, it was adjudged, that this was a fufficient publication.

§ 46. It has been held, that a general charge of legacies made on lands by a will duly attested according to the statute of frauds, extended to legacies afterwards given by a will or codicil, not duly attested; from which, it was concluded, that a person might, by means of a will duly executed, empower himself to make a future disposition of land, by another instrument not duly executed. This doctrine, if established, would have been attended with the most serious consequences; for, as Mr. Fearne observes, " If a man Opin 435. " might, by a will duly attested, devise his lands " upon fuch trusts as he should appoint by any other "instrument, it would, in effect, amount to a repeal " of the statute of frauds in respect to the solemnities " of testamentary dispositions of land. A man would " have nothing to do but, on his coming of age, to " make one general repeal of that statute, in regard " to himself, by devising his whole real estate to some " nominal persons, and their heirs, upon such trusts, ್ ಆ . as the testator should afterwards by any writ-" ing appoint; and he might, by reference to fuch " repealing will, at any time make a testamentary "disposition of the estates, without the least attention " to the ceremonies required by the statute. This 66 would let in all the inconveniencies of frauds and " perjuries intended to be prevented by the last men-" tioned statute, in regard to testamentary dispositions " of land: nay, the legal absolution might possibly 46 be extended to the statute of wills as well as that " of frauds, &c. and by confidering the first inter-" mediate will a fufficient compliance, as well with 66 the requisition of writing required by one statute, 44 as of the ceremonies of execution by the other, a F 3 " parol

A Person cannot empower himfelf to give Lands by a Will not duly attested.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. v. \$ 46, 47.

parol appointment of the trusts might be attempted, under a power worded for that purpose in the original absolving will."

This opinion has been established as good law by the lowing determination.

§ 47. A person seised of freeholds and copyholds ich he had furrendered to the use of his will, by a il duly executed and attefted, gave certain interests his estates, and, in default of issue of the persons to iom they were thus given, he gave the same to truss to fuch uses as he should declare by any deed or trument to be executed by him and attested by two more credible witnesses. The testator, by a deed-Il, dated the day after attested by two witnesses, dered farther uses. A question was referred to the urt of King's Bench, whether the two instruments en together were, at the time of the death of the risor, sufficient to pass any estate or interest in the ehold or copyhold premises, or either of them, not en by the first instrument. The Court of King's nch certified their opinion, that the two instruments, ten together, were not sufficient to pass any estate or erest in the freehold or copyhold premises, or either them, not given by the first instrument; on the ound, that the fecond instrument was a deed, and t a will. The cause coming on for farther directions, rd Loughborough, Mr. Justice Buller, and Mr. Justice Ison, were clearly of opinion that the second instrunt, not being attested according to the statute of uds, could have no operation upon the freehold ites but was good as to the copyholds. But Mr. Justice

Justice Wilson said he believed it was true, and he had found no case to the contrary, that if a testator in his will referred expressly to any paper already written, and so described it, that there could be no doubt of the identity, and the will was executed in the presence of three witnesses, that paper made part of the will, whether executed or not; and such reference was the same as if he had incorporated it.

§ 48. The statute of frauds requires, that all devises of lands or tenements shall be executed in the manner above stated; and it has been determined, that all devises by which terms for years, or other interests arising out of lands are created, or by which powers to sell or charge land are given, are within the statute. And, therefore, where an estate is devised for a term of years, or a sum of money is given originally and primarily out of land, a will containing such a charge must be executed in the manner prescribed by the statute, because it is the same as a devise of the land, since the term of years is an interest in the land; and money thus given, can only be raised by a sale of the land.

Wills that charge Lands are within the Statute.

2 Atk. 272. 2 Vei. 179.

been already mentioned, namely, where a will duly executed according to the statute contains a general charge on lands in aid of the personal estate, it will extend to legacies given by a subsequent will, or codicil, not duly attested. This doctrine is sounded on the principle, that a charge of debts or legacies amounts to no more than making the real estate auxiliary to the personal, or, in other words, directing it to be

Exception.—
Codicil giving Legacies.
Ante f. 46.

Brudenell v. Boughton, 2 Atk. 268. 1 Burr. R. 423. Fearne's Op. 434.

F 4

converted

converted into, and applied as part of the testator's personal estate, and in aid thereof,

2 Vel. Jun.

331.

§ 50. Mr. Justice Buller, in the case of Habergham v. Vincent and Stansfield, cited in support of this doctrine, the case of the Duke of Bolton v. Williams, in which a term was created by a testator for payment of all such legacies as he should mention in a codicil. He made a codicil unattested, giving legacies and annuities, and the annuities were held to be legacies. And the Lord Chancellor observed, that all the cases

/ Id. 236. 8 Vel. Jun.

495•

of this kind were not cases of a primary, substantive, and independent charge upon the real estate, but a charge upon it in aid of the personal, which was primarily charged; and that the statute of frauds did not prevent a man from creating by will, a sluctuating

charge upon real, in aid of personal,

Wills of Trufts are within the Statute. § 51. Although a trust estate is now, what a use was before the statute 27 Hen. 8. yet it is settled, that it can only be devised by a will executed according to the statute of frauds.

Wagffaff v. Wagitaff, 3P.Wms.261.

§ 52. Lands were conveyed to trustees, in trust for J. S. his heirs and assigns, or such persons as he or they should appoint. J. S. by a will attested by two witnesses only, devised his trust estate to J. N. Lord Macclessield said, there could be no question but that a trust of an inheritance could not be devised, otherwise than by a will attested by three witnesses, in the same manner as a legal estate; for, if the law were otherwise, it would introduce the same inconveniencies,

as to frauds and perjuries, as were occasioned before 3 Atk. 151. the statute by a devise of a legal estate.

§ 53. An estate in mortgage, though only held as a pledge for fecuring the repayment of money, can only be devifed by a will executed according to the statute of frauds. The fame rule applies to equities of redemption, which are confidered as real estates.

And of Mortgages and Equities of Redemption.

§ 54. Money directed to be laid out in the purchase of lands, being confidered in the Court of Chancery as land, must, I presume, be devised by a will attested according to the statute of frauds.

And of Money to be laid out in Lands. Tà. 1. f. 15.

§ 55. A will made in a foreign country of lands in England, must be executed in the same manner, and attested by the same number of witnesses, as if made in England.

And Wills made abroad. Coppie v. Coppin, 2P.Wm.293

§ 56. As terms for years already created were devisable before the statute of wills, they are not comprehended within the statute of frauds, and may therefore be devised by a will not executed according to that statute. But it has already been observed, that a Ante s. 48. term de nove cannot be created by will, unless such will is executed according to the statute of frauds.

Wills of Terms for Years not within the Statute.

§ 57. If, however, a term for years be assigned to attend the inheritance, it then becomes a part of the inheritance, and not a chattel real, and can only be devised by such a will as would pass the inheritance.

Exception. Terms to attend.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. v. § 58, 59.

hurch itm.236.

§ 58. Edward Whitchurch took a mortgage for 500 years, to commence from the making thereof, for fecuring 200 /. and afterwards took another fecurity of the same lands for 1000 years, in the name of another person, in trust for himself, to commence also from the making thereof. Edward Whitchurch afterwards purchased the inheritance in his own name, and, by a will not executed according to the statute of frauds, he devised the premises to the son of a younger brother. The heir at law of the testator brought her bill in Chancery, in order to compel the executor and devifee to affign over the term to her. It was objected for the defendants, that the executor had affented to the devise; and that the will, though not attested by three witneffes, was, however, good at law, to pals the term. But decreed, that as this was a term which would have attended the inheritance, and in equity have gone to the heir, and not to the executor, in which respect, it was to be considered as part of the inheritance; fo the will, which was not attefted by three witnesses, as the law required it to be, when land was to pais, should not carry this term. Though it was true fuch a will, as in the present case, would be fufficient to pals a term in gross, yet should it not pals the trust of a term attendant on an inheritance, nor, confequently, the term itself.

72-

of olds him stote. § 59. It has been stated, that the statutes of wills do not extend to copyhold estates, and that the power of devising them is indirectly exercised by means of a surrender to the use of a will; and it has been determined, that in such cases, a will need not be executed according

according to the statute of frauds, because the copyhold passes by the surrender, and not by the will; which is only a declaration of the uses of the surrender. And even a nuncupative will of copyholds 1 Inft. 111 b. was an effectual declaration of the uses, where the furrender was filent as to the form, till the 29 Cha. 2. required all declarations of trusts to be in writing.

§ 60. Lord Macclesfield has observed upon this doc- 2P.Wm. 258. trine, that his opinion was never to shake any settled resolutions touching property or the title of land, it being for the common good, that these should be certain and known, however ill-grounded the first resolution should be; but if that had not been settled, it might be more reasonable to say, when I have surrendered my copyhold to the use of my will, a will of this copyhold shall be so executed, and in such a manner as by the act of parliament a will of lands ought to be executed: but this case having been ruled otherwise, he could not shake it; however, he was not for carrying it one jot farther.

§ 61. In a modern case, Lord Kenyon, when Master Cury v. of the Rolls, determined, that a mere draught of a will, the figning and publication whereof were pre- n. I. vented by the testator's sudden death, yet, being proved in the ecclefiastical court, as a testamentary paper, was fufficient to pass copyholds, which the testator had before furrendered to the use of his will.

§ 62. Mr. Peere Williams states it to have been laid 2 P.Wm. 261. down by Sir Joseph Jekyll, that if a copyholder be **feised**

feised only of the trust, or equity of redemption of a copyhold, and devises such trust or equity of redemption, there must be three witnesses to the will; for here can be no precedent surrender to the use of the will, to pass this trust, and the trust and equity of redemption of all lands of inheritance are within the statute of frauds and perjuries; otherwise great inconveniencies would arise therefrom. But, in a subsequencase, Lord Hardwicke was of opinion, that the tru of a copyhold would pass by a will not attested according to the statute of frauds, as a copyhold surrendere to the use of a will would do, for that equity ought to follow the law, and make it at least as easy to conve a trust, as a legal estate.

Tuffnell v. Page, 2 Atk. 37-

Goodwin v. Kilfhaw, Amb, 684. \$ 63. If the furrender of a copyhold to the uses of a will requires that the will should be attested by three witnesses, a devise of such copyhold must be so a tested, otherwise it will be void.

Huffey v. Grille, Amb. 299\$ 64. A device of customary freeholds, where ther is no custom to surrender them to the use of a will must be executed according to the statute of frauds and a trust estate in them must be devised in the sam manner.

Wills may be proved in Chancery. Colton v. Wilfon, 3 P.Wm.192. § 65. It has been a common practice for a lon time, where a title depends upon a will, to prove it i Chancery; but Lord King has faid, that this is no absolutely necessary to make out the title, any most than it would be to prove a deed in equity, by whice the estate was settled from the heir at law, after the ancestor'

ancestor's death. The will prevents and breaks the descent to the heir, as much as a deed; and the hands of the witnesses to the will may be as well proved as those to a deed. Now, as it would be no objection to a title, if a modern deed, on which the title depended, was not proved in equity, why should it be so in the case of a will, where the same appears to be duly attested by three witnesses, whose names are mentioned Fearne's Op. to have been subscribed in the presence of the testator? 234.

TITLE XXXVIIL

DEVISE.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Revocation of Devises.

§ 1. All Devifes are revecable.

2. Statute of Frauds.

g. Modes of revoking a Will of Lands.

4. A fubsequent Will.

5. A subsequent Will not always a Revocation.

14. A Codicil is fometimes a Re-

15. Two Wills of the same Date are void.

16. A written Declaration.

21. Such Deslaration must be figured by the Testator.

23. Cancelling.

26. It must be by the Testator, or by his Direction.

28. An Intention to cancel is fufficient.

30. An Obliteration of Part does not revoke the whole.

35. Cancelling one Part revokes the other.

36. Implied Revocations.

37. Marriage and Birth of a Child.

44. Marriage and Birth of a Postbumous Child.

47 A Woman's Will revoked by Marriage.

48. Alteration of the Eflate.

49. Alienation to a Stranger.

57. Alienation to the Use of the Devisor.

61. Alienation to strengthen the Devise.

64. Fine and Recovery.

71. Modern Dollrine of Revecations.

74. Parol Evidence not admisfible.

76. A fraudulent Conveyance is not a Revocation.

78. Nor an Alteration of the Quality of an Estate.

81. Nor the Change of a Truftee.

84. Nor a Partition.

86. Unless it extends to other Things.

one

88. Of partial Revocations.

95. Revocations of Leafebolds.

102. Revocations of Copybolds.

Section 1.

All Deviles are revocable.

ALTHOUGH a devise of lands differs in many respects from a testament of personal property, yet there are some circumstances common to both;

one of which is that a devise is revocable at any time during the life of the devisor. So that although a person should declare his will to be irrevocable in the strongest terms, yet he may revoke it, because his own acts or words cannot alter the disposition of the law, 8 Rep. 82 a. so as to make that irrevocable which in its own nature is revocable.

Bac.Max.19.

§ 2. Devises of lands, made in pursuance of the Statute of particular customs of boroughs, or by virtue of the statutes of wills might have been revoked by words only without writing, the statute of wills giving power to any person seised in see of lands to devise them by writing, but being filent as to revocations. This was remedied by the fixth section of the statute of frauds, by which it is enacted, "That no devise in writing, of " any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, or any clause thereof, shall be revocable otherwise than by " fome other will or codicil in writing, or other writ-" ing declaring the same, or by burning, cancelling, 44 tearing, or obliterating the same by the testator " himself, or in his presence and by his directions and " consent. But all devises and bequests of lands and tenements shall remain and continue in force until " the same be burnt, cancelled, torn, or obliterated, by the testator or his directions in manner aforesaid, 66 or unless the same be altered by some other will or " codicil in writing, or other writing of the devisor, " figned in the presence of three or four witnesses " declaring the same."

Frauds.

S 3. There

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. vi. § 3, 4:

Modes of revoking a Willof Lands.

§ 3. There are therefore three express modes of revoking a will. First by a subsequent will duly attested according to the statute. Secondly, by an express declaration in writing that the testator means to revoke his will. And thirdly, by cancelling, tearing, or obliterating it.

A subsequent Will.

§ 4. With respect to the first mode it should be observed that, by the Roman law, a subsequent will operated in all cases as a revocation of the former one.

Juft. Inft. Lib. 2. Tit. 17. f. 2.

Posteriori quoque testamento quod jure persectum est, superius rumpitur. The reason of this rule was, because the essence of a Roman testament consisted in the institution of an heir who took the whole property of

the testator, so that two wills could never subsist at the

Vinn. Com.

fame time, as there could not be two distinct owners of the same thing. Quicunque testamentum facit censitur de omnibus bonis disponere, ut non magis duo testamenta simul consistere possint, quam duo domini ejusdem rei in solidum constitui. But although the law of England has adopted the principles of the Roman law

respecting wills of personal property, yet Lord Mans-

as of the whole.

Cowp. R. 90. field has faid that a devise of lands is looked upon in a very different light, being considered as an appointment of particular lands to a particular devisee, and is confidered in the nature of a conveyance by way of appointment, and upon that principle it is that no man can devise lands which he has not at the time of fuch conveyance; from which it follows that a man may as well dispose of part of his lands, by his will,

§ 5. In consequence of these principles it may be A hosequent laid pown as a rule, that although a subsequent will duly attested is generally said to be a revocation of a former one, yet this proposition must not be adopted in its utmost extent; for a subsequent will of lands is · not in its own nature a revocation of a former one, nor will it operate as fuch, unless it contains words 3 Wilf, R. expressly revoking the former one, or makes a different and incompatible disposition of the same lands; fo that if a fecond will has not a clause of revocation of all former wills, and does not make any disposition inconsistent with a former will, it cannot operate as a revocation of fuch former will, but both wills are good.

Will not always a Revo-

§ 6. A person devised lands to his younger son and Coward v. his heirs. He afterwards married, and by another will in writing, devised the same lands to his wife for life, paying yearly to his younger fon and his heirs, a certain rent. Anderson and Glanville held it to be no revocation, but that both wills might stand together, the latter not being contrary to the former, and there being no express revocation. The intention of the testator being only to provide for his wife, and not to alter the devise to his son, for the giving him a rent shewed he intended that he should take the reversion.

Marshall, Cro.Eliz.721.

§ 7. Where a jury found that a testator had made a fecond will, the contents of which were unknown, fuch fecond will was held not to operate as a revocation of the first; because it did not appear, either that Vol. VI. it G

it contained a clause revoking the former will, or that it made a different disposition of the same lands.

Hungerford v. Notworthy, Show. Parl. Ca. 146. Hard. 374. Salk. 592. 3 Mod. 203. Hitchina v. Baffett. § 8. In ejectment the jury found a special verdict that Sir Henry Killigrew being seised in see made his will in writing, and that afterwards he made another will in writing, but as to the contents thereof they were entirely ignorant. The question was, whether the second will could operate as revocation of the first. The Court of King's Bench was of opinion that the second will was not a revocation of the first.

Upon a writ of error in the House of Lords, it was argued for the plaintiff, that the second will could not be considered as a duplicate of the first, but must be deemed a revocation of it; that no will was good but the last; that every will was revokable until death; that the making another will imported a revocation of all former ones, even though it was not so expressly declared.

On behalf of the defendant it was contended that every latter will was not a revocation, for a man might dispose of one part of his estate by one will, and of another part by another will. So if a man purchased lands after he had made his will, he might make another will of those. Therefore the second will in this case might relate to other lands and be no revocation. The judgment was affirmed.

\$ 9. In a modern case the judges carried this principle still farther; for where a jury found that a testator

testator had made a second will different from the first. but without finding in what that difference consisted, they held that fuch fecond will did not revoke the former one.

S 10. It was found by a jury that John Lacey being Goodright v. seised in see simple of a set of chambers in Lincoln's Inn, made a will in the year 1748, by which he devised all his real and personal estate to Frances Harwood. And that in the year 1756 he made another will different from the former one, but in what Ca 489. particulars were unknown to them. But they did not find that the testator cancelled his said will of the year 1756, or that the defendant destroyed the same; but what was become of the faid will the jurors were altogether ignorant.

Harwood. 3 Will. R. 2 Black. R. 937. Cowp. R. 87. 7 Bro. Parl.

The question was, whether the devise in the will of 1748 to Frances Harwood, was revoked by the will found to be executed in 1756.

Judgment was given in the Court of Common Pleas. that the will of 1748 was revoked by the second will; but, upon a writ of error in the Court of King's Bench, this judgment was reverfed.

A writ of error having been brought in the House of Lords, it was contended on the part of the plaintiffs in error, that the title of the heir at law, being a clear substantive title, ought not to be defeated but by a title equally clear and unexceptionable: that the title of a devifee must be founded on that, which is G 2

clearly known to be the ultimate intention of the testator, and it was not sufficient that the testator did at one time of his life mean to give his estate to the devisee, unless he continued in that intention to the time of his death. The jury had found, that the testator had made a second will, executed according to law; and that the disposition, made by the testator in his fecond will, was different from the disposition in his first will: and, though the jury said they were unable to ascertain the particulars, yet the finding necessarily imported, that they had received sufficient fatisfaction, as to the general contents, to enable them upon their oaths to find that. From whence the court must see that the testator's intention was generally changed; and, confequently, that the first will was revoked. That the jury, having found that Mr. Lacey did in 1756 duly execute another will, the fame must be taken to subsist at the time of his death, unless a subsequent change of intention appeared; but the jury had excluded the idea of any fuch change by declaring, they did not find that the tellator had cancelled the fecond will; and, as the jury had not found it cancelled, the court could not fay it was for By establishing then the first will, which the testator did not mean to die with, it would necessarily follow, that the whole of the testator's large fortune would go from his family to a person, for whom from the year 1756 he never intended it. Wills, disinheriting natural heirs in favour of persons who are strangers in blood, ought not to receive more countenance, than the necessity of the occasion requires; and, whenever there is evidence of a change of intention in the tef-

tator, such wills can never be established to the prejudice of an heir at law. That, it being at least rendered doubtful by the execution of the second will, whether Mrs. Harwood was entitled to any thing, or if she was, what she was entitled to, it became necessary for her as claiming under a derivative, and not under an original title, to produce the second will and shew her interest under it. That if ever it should be understood as established in law, that from the bare nonproduction of a latter will, to whatever cause it might be owing, a former will must at all events be established, it would be an opening to frauds of the most dangerous kind, and be the strongest temptation to devisees in a former will, to exert every artifice to get possession of and suppress the latter instrument, in order to set up the former revoked will.

On the other fide it was faid that, with regard to the doctrine of revocations, the determination of the House of Lords in the case of Hitchins v. Bassett had Ante f. 8. fettled this point at law, viz. that a subsequent independent will of lands is not, in its own nature, a revocation of a former will, nor will operate as fuch; unless it contains words expressly revoking the former, or makes a different and incompatible disposition of the fame lands. In the present case the last will was not to be found; its contents were not known; therefore no express revocation of the former will appeared in it, nor could it be shewn that it contained any different or incompatible disposition of the chambers in question. That, although it was found by the verdict that the disposition, made by the latter will, was different G_3

different from that made by the former, yet it was at the fame time found to be unknown, in what particulars that difference confifted; whether it related to lands, or to personal estates only, to the appointment of an executor, or to the quantum of a legacy. most trivial alteration in the most inconsiderable legacy might have occasioned that difference; but there was nothing to prove that it extended to those particular chambers, which were the subject of the question. The mere existence of a subsequent will was not, of itself a revocation, nor was any new disposition, contained therein, a revocation of the former devise of the chambers in question; unless that new disposition affected those very chambers. And therefore, until it could be shewn, that the different disposition found by the verdict extended to those chambers, or that there were express words of revocation of the former will contained in the latter, the devife under which the defendant claimed, stood unrevoked by any thing which could be shewn,

It was objected, that the claim of a device must be founded on the last will of the testator; and that, in this case, there being found to be a will executed subsequent to that in 1748, that in 1748 was not the last will of the testator, and consequently none could claim any lands under it. But to this it was answered, that the proposition, that the claim of the devisee must be founded on the last will of the testator, was fallacious; unless its import was very strictly attended to. It was true, the will under which a devisee claims must be the last will, in respect to the very lands which

which were the fubject of fuch claim; but, if there were ten subsequent wills, which contained no express revocation of the former will, nor any words which could affect, or extend to, the subject matter of a devise, contained in a former will, that former will, quoad the subject of such devise, would be the last will of the testator. It was lastly observed, that should a will, which could not be produced, and the contents or effects whereof were entirely unknown, be construed as a revocation of a known subsisting will, fuch a construction would in effect not only overturn the statute of frauds, in respect to one of the most material and dangerous species of fraud, intended to be provided against by that statute; but would at the same time be striking a most fatal blow, at the very root of all testamentary power over lands; for, of what use to a man would the power of making a will be, if he could not make that will secure? But it was impossible that any will, however deliberately made and folemnly executed, could be in any degree secure; if it could be set aside by means so very practicable, as only swearing to the execution of an unexisting will.

After hearing counsel on this writ of error, the following question was put to the Judges, viz. "Whether on the facts found by the special verdict in this
cause, the devise of the chambers, in Lincoln's Inn,
to Frances Harwood, the defendant in error, by
the will of the 16th April 1748, be revoked or
not?" Whereupon the Lord Chief Baron of the
Court of Exchequer delivered the unanimous opinion of the judges, that the said devise was not
revoked.

revoked. It was therefore ordered and adjudged, that the judgment given in the Court of King's Bench, reverfing the judgment given in the Court of Common Pleas, should be revealed. continued.

§ 11. The intention of a tellator to revoke a will is the circumstance which constitutes the revocation, and when that appears in a subsequent will, it is sufficient though such subsequent will should not to from the disability of the devisee.

1 Roll, Ab. 614. \$ 12. Thus where a person devised lands and afterwards devised it to the poor of the C. which was void, they not having a catake, yet it was held to be a revocation. S to a corporation, though void, was held revocation.

Roper v. Ratcliffe, 10 Med. \$33§ 13. In a subsequent case it was held the to a Roman Catholic (who was then inc taking by devise) should notwithstanding of revocation of a former will.

A Codicil is fometimes a Revocation.

3 Atk. 522.

1 Vel. 32.

178.

§ 14. A codicil duly executed has the f in revoking a former devise as a subsequent contains express words of revocation; or if a different disposition from that contained in

Two Wills of the fame Date are void. Phipps v. Earl of Auglefes, 7 Bro. Par. Ca. 443.

§ 15. It was held by all the Judges in the Lords that two inconsistent wills of the f neither of which could be proved to be last were by the common law of England void 1

tainty, so far as they were inconsistent and would let in the heir, if no act of the testator subsequent to the wills explained them, fo as to reconcile what otherwife would appear inconfistent.

§ 16. The fecond mode of revoking a will is by a writing declaring an intention of revoking fuch will, figned in the presence of three witnesses. And it is observable that the statute of frauds (§ 5.) requires 1 P. Wms. that in devises of lands, the three witnesses should fubscribe the will in the presence of the testator. the clause relating to revocation (§ 6.) only requires that the devisor should sign in the presence of three witnesses without requiring that the witnesses should fubscribe in the testator's presence.

- § 17. Upon the construction of this clause it has been held that although a will may be revoked by a written declaration, without being attested by three witnesses, in the presence of the testator; yet that a second will, though containing a clause revoking all former wills, shall not operate as a revocation, unless it is executed in fuch a manner as to operate as a devise.
- § 18. J. S. by a will executed according to the Egglestone v. statute, devised the lands in question to A. afterwards the testator published another writing as his last will, in the presence of three witnesses, revoking all former wills; but the witnesses to the second will did not subscribe their names in the presence of the testator. The fecond will not being valid as a devise of lands, the question was, whether it was not a good writing within the

3 Mod. 258. I Show. 89. the statute of frauds to revoke the first will. And the court resolved that it was not.

Onione v.
Tyrer.

**P. Wms.
343.

**Vern. 741.

§ 19. A person by a will duly attested, devised lands to trustees to several uses. He afterwards made another will of the same lands devising them to other trustees, but to the same uses, and there was a clause in this last will revoking all former wills; but though it was subscribed by the testator and attested by three witnesses, yet the witnesses did not subscribe their names in the presence of the testator, upon which the testator's heir claimed the lands. And the question was, whether the last will being void as a devise of the lands, should yet be a good revocation of the former will. Lord Comper declared, that if the testator had by his fecond will barely revoked the first, without declaring by the same act his intention to dispose of his lands to the fame purposes to which they were devifed by the former will, the fecond will had been a good revocation of the former, as to the lands devifed; but here was a disposition of the same lands in the fecond will to the same purposes as in the first will, which shewed he did not mean to revoke his first will as to the devise of those lands, unless he might by the fecond will (at the fame time that he revoked the former) fet up the like devise, so as to take effect by virtue of his second will; and that his second will never being so perfected as to make the devise of the lands therein to be good, the same devise stood unrevoked by the former will. And that upon the like reason the courts of law had determined with great justice in the cases cited. And it was plain the testator

did

did not mean to revoke his former will by cancelling, but by substituting another perfect will in lieu Vide infra, thereof.

§ 20. In the case of Ellis v. Smith, one of the Autech. 5. questions was, whether the will not being figned by the testator in the presence of the witnesses but only acknowledged, was a good revocation under the 6th fection of the statute. The Lord Ch. Baron Parker 1 Vef Jun. thought it was, and that a revocation might be by any will executed according to the 5th fection of the statute: For the words, "Signed in the presence of "three witnesses," &c. related only to the preceding words, "any other writing." The clause was to be construed in the disjunctive, viz. either by will, codicil, &c. or by writing figned before three witnesses. The other judges were of the same opinion.

§ 21. A declaration by a testator that he has revoked a particular devise in his will, though reduced into writing, and attested by three witnesses, will not the Testator. operate as a revocation unless figured by the testator.

Such Declabe figned by

§ 22. A person devised certain estates to his daugh- Hilton v. ters, D. and S. afterwards the testator having an intention to revoke the will, as to D., directed the following words to be written on his will—" We whose " names are underwritten do testify that the above " named A. (the testator) did the day of the date " hereof publish and declare that the feveral clauses " and devifes in his will, any way relating to his " daughter D. should cease and be void, she being s fince

" fince married, and her portion paid; in withes " whereof we have hereunto fet our hands, &c." And the same was subscribed by four witnesses in the presence of the testator; but the testator did not fign the fame, nor any other person by his direction, or by him authorized. Adjudged that this was not a revocation.

Cancelling.

\$ 23. The third mode of revoking a will is by cancelling it, that is by tearing, burning, or otherwise destroying it, or by obliterating it, or defacing the figuature of the tellator. But Lord Mansfield has ob-Cowp. R. 52. served, that cancelling is in itself an equivocal act, and in order to make it a revocation, it must be shewn quo animo it was cancelled; for unless that appears it will be no revocation. As if a man were to throw the ink upon his will instead of the fand, though it might be a complete defacing of the instrument, it would be no cancelling. Or suppose a man having two wills of different dates by him, should direct the former to be cancelled, and through mistake the perfon should cancel the latter, such an act would be no revocation of the last will: or suppose a man having a will confishing of two parts, throws one unintentionally into the fire, where it is hurnt, it would be no revocation of the devices contained in such part. It is the intention therefore that must govern in such cafes.

Hyde v. Hyde, 1 Ab. Eq.

§ 24. A person made a will, and intending to make fome alterations in it, fent for a scrivener and gave directions for another will. The ferivener accordingly

cordingly drew a draft of another will, which the testator figned, and then, thinking he had made a new will, he pulled out the first will and tore the seals from the first eight sheets of it, which the scrivener feeing asked him what he was doing, to which he answered, I am cancelling my first will. Pray, says the scrivener, hold your hand, the other will is not perfected, it will not pass your real estate, for want of being executed pursuant to the slatute of frauds. I am forry for that, fays he, and infinediately defisted from tearing off the feals, and died in a short time after without having done any thing farther to perfect the fecond will, or to cancel the first. It was decreed that the tearing the feals from the first eight sheets, not being done animo cancellandi, was no revocation. And that the feal remaining whole to the last sheet, was fufficient, and in strictness it was not necessary that all the sheets should be sealed.

§ 25. In the case of Onyons v. Tyrer as reported in Prec. in Cha. 459. it is stated that the testator cancelled the first will, by tearing off the seal, and as to this point Mr. Coxe has stated from the register's book what I P. Wms. Lord Cowper faid, which I shall transcribe.— "And " it is plain the testator did not mean to revoke " his former will by cancelling, but by substituting " another perfect will in lieu thereof and not other-" wife; and therefore the cancelling thereof was but " a circumstance shewing that he thought he had " made a good disposition by the second will, and in confidence thereof it was done with no other intent 66 but that the second will should thereby more furely " take

" take place."—It was decreed that the first will was not revoked.

It must be by the Testator or by his Direction. § 26. A will can only be cancelled by the testator himself, or by some other person in his presence, and by his express direction. So that if a stranger tears a will in pieces, it will not be thereby revoked.

Haines v. Haines, 2 Vern. 441. S 27. A person having disinherited his heir at law, by will, a younger brother of the heir at law snatched the will out of the hands of the executor, and tore it into many small pieces. Most of the pieces, particularly such parts wherein was the devise of the land, were picked up and stitched together again. A bill was filed to have the will established, and it was decreed that the devisee should hold and enjoy against the heir; and he to convey to the devisee, although there was no direct proof that the heir directed the tearing of the will.

An Intention to cancel is fufficient. \$ 28. Any act of a testator by which he shews his intention to cancel his will, though the will be not actually cancelled, operates as a revocation.

Bibb v. Thomas, 2 Black, R. 1943. S 29. One Patin who had for two months together frequently declared himself discontented with his will, being one day in bed near the fire, ordered Mary Wilson who attended him, to fetch his will, which she did, and delivered it to him, it being then whole, only somewhat erased. He opened it, looked at it, then gave it something of a rip with his hands, and so tore it as nearly to tear a bit off, then rumpled it together

and threw it on the fire, but it fell off. However it must foon have been burnt had not Mary Wilson taken it up and put it into her pocket. Patin did not see her take it up, but seemed to have some suspicion of it, as he asked her what she was at, to which she made little or no answer. He at several times after said that was not. and should not be his will, and bid her destroy it. She faid at first, so I will when you have made another; but afterwards upon his repeated enquiries she told him she had destroyed it; though in fact it was never destroyed, and she believed, he imagined it was fo. She asked him, when the will was burnt, to whom his estate would go, he answered to his sister and her children. He afterwards told one J. E. that he had destroyed his will, and should make no other till he had feen his brother John Mills, and defired 7. E. would tell him so, and that he wanted to see him. He afterwards wrote to Mills in these terms,— "Dear brother, I have destroyed my will which I " made; for upon ferious confideration I was not easy in my mind about that will."-Afterwards defires him to come down-" For if I die intestate it " will cause uneafiness." He however died without making any other will. The jury, with whom the judge concurred, thought this a fufficient revocation of the will, and therefore found a verdict for the leffee of the heir. A motion was made for a new trial. "And " per totam curiam, this is a sufficient revocation. " revocation under the statute may be effected either 66 by framing a new will, amounting to a revocation " of the first, or by some act done to the instrument " or will itself, viz. burning, tearing, cancelling, or " obliteration

Onyons v. Tryers, ante.

Hide v. Hide,

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. vi. \$ 29-31.

66 obliteration by the testator, or in his presence, and " by his directions and consent. But these must be "done animo revocandi. Each must accompany the " other. Revocation is an act of the mind, which " must be demonstrated by some outward and visible 66 fign or fymbol of revocation. The statute has " specified four of these; and if these or one of "them are performed in the slightest manner, this " joined with the declared intent will be a good revo-" cation. It is not necessary that the will or instruer ment itself, be totally destroyed or consumed, " burnt or torn to pieces. The present case falls es within two of the specific acts described by the " statute. It is both a burning and a tearing. "Throwing it on the fire with an intent to burn, 46 though it is only very flightly finged and falls off is " fufficient within the statute."

The rule for a new trial was discharged.

An Obliteration of Part does not revoke the Whole. \$ 30. An obliteration or alteration of part of a will does not operate as a revocation of the whole, but only pro tanto.

§ 31. A. by will in writing duly attested, devised to his wife a copyhold estate. A. on the day he died, directed B. to obliterate some devises, but nothing as to the copyhold; and then caused a memorandum to be wrote, that he had examined and approved of the will as so obliterated and altered in his presence by B. but did not republish it in the presence of three witnesses.

hesses, but directed B. to carry it to one to write it fair, and, before it was brought back, he became delirious.

Held to be a good will.

§ 32. Robert Sutton made his will duly attested, Sutton v. Sutton, and thereby gave all his estates, except a house at Bath, Cowp.R.812. to trustees, in trust to sell, and to place out the money on Government or real fecurities, for the purposes therein mentioned. The testator afterwards made several alterations, obliterations, and interlineations, in different parts of his will, which were not attested, but did not erase or alter the devise to the trustees. It was certified by the Court of King's Bench, upon a case sent out of Chancery, that the devise of the real estate to the trustees was not revoked.

§ 33. A person devised a real estate to three trus- Larkins v. tees and their heirs, upon trust to fell. Some time after, the testator struck out the name of one of the 16. trustees, by drawing a pen through it. And the question was, whether the devise to the trustees was revoked by the erasure of the name of one of them, after the execution of the will. Upon a case sent out of Chancery for the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas, Lord Alvanley said, that a revocation by obliteration will have the same effect which a revocation by any other means will have, and no more. the devifees must be considered, in a court of law, as joint-tenants in fee, absolutely. That it was argued that the revocation of the devise, as to one devisee, made an alteration in the interest of the others; but, Vol. VI. H whatever

whatever this alteration was, it was not an alteration arising from a new gift, but merely from a revocation. If the remaining devisees were to acquire any estate which they had not before, something beyond a mere revocation would be necessary. If, therefore, the devisees had been tenants in common, upon the erasure of one name, the remaining two would take no more than two-thirds of the estate.

Id. 109.

The court certified, that the devise of the estate to the two trustees, to whom, together with the third trustee, the said estate was devised as joint-tenants in trust to be sold, was not revoked by the testator's having struck out the name of the third trustee after the execution of the said will.

Short v. Smith, 4 East. R. 419. § 34. Thomas Carwardine duly made his will, by which he devised the premises in question to John Spillman and Edward Aldridge, upon several trusts. The testator, afterwards, made several alterations in the will, and, among others, struck out the name of John Spillman, and introduced the names of James Wood and John Adey, and did not afterwards republish his will.

Lord Ellenborough Chief Justice.—" It has been con-

and "

[&]quot;tended in this case, that the testator Thomas Car"wardine has died intestate as to the premises in ques-

[&]quot;tion, and that his heir at law is entitled to recover:

[&]quot; inafmuch, as the obliteration of the name of John

[&]quot; Spillman, one of the devices in trust, must have

[&]quot; been taken to have been done animo revocandi, and is a revocation of the devife made of the premifes;

" and that it must be also taken, that his intention " was to have another will, accompanied with the fo-" lemnities required by the statute of frauds, or at " least, to have republished the will, obliterated and " altered as it is, on which the question arises. " the case in Dyer 310 b. has been relied on. " facts of this case plainly shew, that the testator had " no object but to change his trustees: and it would " be unreasonable, when he has not, by any thing he " has done, indicated any intention to dispose of his " lands to different purpofes than those declared by his " will, and, when it clearly appears that he meant to " disinherit his heir at law, to infer, that he designed " that his will should become inoperative, and so let " in his heir at law by what he did, rather than to " conclude, that he thought he had, by the alterations " introduced, made a valid disposition of his estate to " the new trustees, and that he had no design to alter " his will, except so far as such obliteration and inter-" lineation could effectuate that purpose, by substitut-" ing the persons whose names he interlined in the " stead of him whose name was struck out. If such " be the case, and so it appears to us, the testator " meant no revocation but by means of that, which *6 he, through mistake, supposed to be a valid disposi-"tion to others, and had no intention to revoke by " the obliteration he has made, but, by an effectual " substitution, meant to be made of others in the room " of him, whose name was so obliterated; and, if so, "this case must be governed by that of Onions v. "Tyrer, 1 P. Wms. 343. where the intention of the " testator not being " to revoke his first will by can-" celling, H 2

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. vi. \$ 34-36.

celling, but by fubflituting another perfect will in 's lieu thereof." Lord Chancellor Cowper, on the if fame ground, fet up a like devife, and held a can-" cellation of the first will to be no revocation. in this case, it has been further argued for the de-16 fendants, that, supposing the obliteration of the 16 name of Spillman to have revoked the devise to him, " the heir at law cannot recover; inafmuch, as the " devise to Aldridge remained unrevoked: and we 16 think there is great weight in this argument; and 16 that there are grounds on which it may be con-" tended, that the effect of the obliteration in this case is, at most, to revoke only the devise as to Spillman, " the one devifee in truff whose name is so obliterated, 16 leaving it unrevoked as to Aldridge; the interline-16 ations, which were intended to add other trustees, being, for want of a proper publication, inoperative: " and, therefore, giving its full effect to that oblitera-" tion, it would leave the devise to Aldridge in full 4 force, and competent to fultain all the trufts of the will in exclusion of the heir at law."

§ 35. Where there are duplicates of a will, and the testator cancels that one which is in his own possession, though the other parts remain entire, yet it will be a revocation of the whole. For the original and duplicate being but one will, they must stand or fall together. And it may not be in the testator's power to get possession of the duplicate.

5 36. Besides the different modes of revoking a will allowed by the statute of frauds, certain alterations in the

the fituation of the testator, or in the estate devised, have been held to be implied revocations of a will.

§ 37. It is now fully established, that a subsequent Marriage and marriage, and the birth of a child, operate as an im- Child. plied revocation of a will made during celibacy.

§ 38. Thus, where a person made a will in the time Christopher of a former wife, who died without iffue, and married v. Christopher a fecond wife, by whom he had iffue the plaintiff; the Court of Exchequer declared, that the testator's second marriage, and, having issue by that marriage, was a total revocation of the will,

4 Burr. 2182,

§ 39. A person made a will in Jamaica in the year Spragge v. 1764, by which he devised his real and personal estate to the defendant: afterwards, he made another will in Amb. 721. England, which was not duly attested, by which he devised his real and personal estate to his wife, in trust for his fon. The Chancellor of Jamaica decreed, that the marriage and birth of a child, and the fecond will, amounted to a revocation, as to the personalty, but not as to the real estate.

Doug. 35.

On an appeal to the Privy Council, Parker Chief Baron, De Grey Chief Justice, and Sir Eardley Wilmot being present, so much of the decree as established the first will, with respect to the real estate, was reversed. And it was declared, that the subsequent marriage and birth of a child were, in point of law, an implied revocation of the first will.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. vi. \$ 40-42.

§ 40. Marriage and the birth of a child do not, however, in all cases, amount to an implied revocation of a will; for these facts only afford a presumption, that the testator had changed his intention. So that, where this presumption is rebutted by other circumstances, the rule will not hold.

n v. apion, Eq.413. 5 41. A batchelor made his will, by which he gave a legacy of 500 L to his brother, and legacies to other persons, and devised his real estate to Eliza Close and her heirs. The testator, asterwards, married Eliza Close, and died, leaving her pregnant of a son, without altering his will. The question was, whether this alteration in the testator's situation amounted to a revocation of his will.

Lord Keeper Wright was clearly of opinion, that an alteration of circumstances might amount to a revocation of a will of lands, as well as of personal estate, notwithstanding the statute of frauds, which does not extend to an implied revocation. But that no such alteration appeared here, for no injury was done to any person, and those were provided for, whom the testator was most bound to provide for, and so established the will.

Doe v. ashire,

r v.

n, [. 31. \$ 42. Lord Mansfield has faid, that as marriage and the birth of a child only amount to an implied revocation of a former will, these may be rebutted by every fort of evidence: and that there was no case in which a marriage and the birth of a child had been held

to raise an implied revocation, where there had not been a disposition of the whole estate.

§ 43. It was held, in a modern case, that a second Experte marriage, and the birth of children, the wife and chil- ter, 7 Vef. dren being provided for by settlement, and there being children of a former marriage, was a case of exception from the rule, that marriage and the birth of a child revoke a will.

Lord Ilchef-Jun. 348.

§ 44. It has been determined, in a modern case, Marriage and that marriage, and the birth of a posthumous child, posthumous operated as a revocation of a will of lands, made before marriage.

Birth of a

§ 45. Thus, where a person being a batchelor, de- Doc v. Lanvised lands to his nephew, and afterwards married. 5 Term R. 49. Upon his wife's becoming pregnant, he expressed an intention to revoke his will, and gave directions to an attorney to prepare another will, but died before it was ready. After his death, his widow was delivered of a child, who brought an ejectment against the devisees.

Lord Kenyon faid, it had been folemnly decided, that marriage, and the subsequent birth of a child, amounted to a revocation of a will made before the marriage. Perhaps the foundation of that principle was not fo much an intention to alter the will, implied from those circumstances happening afterwards, as, a tacit condition annexed to the will itself, at the time of making it, that the party did not then intend that it should take

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. vi. \$ 45.

, if there should be a total change in the fituation s family. His Lordship eited a passage from Jus-'s Institutes, and also from Vinius's Comment, to that, by the civil law, if the wife was pregnant, i posthumous child was afterwards born, the will utterly destroyed: and this confirmed the idea, hefe decisions did not proceed on the intention of arty, but on a tacit condition annexed to the will when made. That our law also took notice of For these reasons, therefore, umous children. ing on former decisions, and not extending them nd the rule established and incorporated into our he was of opinion for the plaintiff: but disclaimed ig any attention to the declarations of the huf-; because, letting in that kind of evidence, would . direct opposition to the statute of frauds, which paffed in order to prevent any thing depending r on the mistake or the perjury of witnesses. the act intended to guard against frauds and per-, it left the courts at liberty to take into confiderthose circumstances which are not liable to preation.

r. Justice Buller said, that the only question was, her a child in ventre sa mere be or be not in the situation as a child actually born, and that there no distinction between them. That he had looked the register's book for the case of Brown v. Thompwhere it did not appear that the child was born up the parent's life. That that case was first heard e the Master of the Rolls, who decreed a revocation of the will, though that decree was afterwards reversed

versed by Lord Keeper Wright, from the peculiar circumstances of the case. They must take it, that, in that case, the child was not born during the devisor's life; if so, the opinion of the Master of the Rolls goes the full length of deciding the case; and he agreed, that that opinion was found law.

The Court was unanimous that the will was revoked.

§ 46. Although it is fully established in the preceding cases, that marriage, and the birth of a child, operate as an implied revocation of a will made before the marriage, yet it has never been decided, that either of those circumstances singly, as a subsequent marriage, or the subsequent birth of a child, will have that effect,

Vide Treat. of Eq. B. 4. P. 1. c. 2. f. 1.

Jackson v. Hurlock, Amb. 487.

§ 47. The marriage of a woman operates as a revocation of a will made by her prior to fuch marriage; for, if the wife dies before her husband, it can have no operation, the making of the will being only the ception of it, as it does not take effect until the deal of the devisor. But if, in a case of this kind, the wife furvives her husband, the will is revived, and takes effect as if she had never been married

A Woman's Will revoked by Marriage. Forse v. Hembling, 4 Rep. 61. Doe v. Staple. 2 Term R. 684. Hodion v. Lloyd, 2 Bro. R. 534. Plowd. 343.

§ 48. It was established as a rule, long before the Alteration of statutes of wills, that any alteration of the estate in lands devised, by the act of the devisor, after the publication of his will, operated as an implied revocation of fuch will. This doctrine is founded on three rea-

the Estate.

fons.

Ante ch. 3.

fons. 1st, On the favour which the law shews in every instance to the heir. 2d, On a principle already stated, that a devisor must not only be actually seised of the lands, at the time when he makes his will, but must also continue to be seised thereof till the time of his death. And, 3d, Because any alteration of the estate devised, is held to be evidence of an alteration in the intention of the devisor.

Alienation to a Stranger. ı Roll. Ab. 615, 616.

§ 49. An actual sale or disposition of the estate by the devisor, after he has made his will, operates as a revocation; for, in fuch case, the testator does not die seised; and his alienation is undoubted evidence of an alteration of intention, in conformity to the rule of the civil law, from which this doctrine was probably derived. Est enim rei legatæ alienatio species tacitæ

ademptionis, quoniam boc ipso, quod testator rem in alium

transfert, recedere a priori voluntate videtur.

Vin. ad Inft. Lib.2. Tit.20. f. 12.

Spartow v. Hardcastle, Amb. 224. 3 Atk. 799. 7 Term. R. 416.

5 50. A person devised all his manors, messuages, and hereditaments whatfoever to trustees, in trust for his nephew and his issue in strict settlement. tator afterwards conveyed an advowson, whereof he was seised at the time of making his will, to trustees and their heirs; and, by another deed, declared the trust of that conveyance. It was decreed by Lord Hardwicke, that the conveyance of the advowson was a revocation of the devise of it.

Arnald v. Arnald, 1 Bro. R. 401.

§ 51. Elizabeth Milner devised a house to her sister Catherine for life, and, after her decease, devised the fame to trustees, in trust to fell; afterwards, the testatrix trix herself fold the estate: and it was decreed, that this fale was a revocation, not only of the house, but also, of the devise of the money to arise from the fale.

- § 52. Even an agreement or covenant to convey lands which have been previously devised, will operate in equity, though not at law, as a revocation of fuch devife.
- § 53. A person devised six houses to his wise; afterwards the testator, by articles, covenanted, in confideration of the marriage of his eldest daughter, to fettle a moiety of his real estate on her. Lord King held, that though this was but a covenant, and, therefore, did not at law revoke the will, yet it being for a valuable consideration, was, in equity, tantamount to Cotter v. a conveyance, and, confequently, a revocation of the will.

Rider w Wager. 2P.Wm.321

Layer, 2 P. Wm. 622.

\$ 54. In the case of Parsens v. Freeman, Lord Hard- 3 Ask. 741. wicke faid, that "what was a revocation at law, shall " hold in equity; as it would be very mischievous, " that the same fort of conveyance should not be a re-" vocation in both cases: therefore, if a man having " an equitable estate makes his will, and then executes " a conveyance, and disposes of it, or declares the use " to himself, that will be a revocation, if it would be " fo of a legal estate at law"."

S 55. Even

This dockrine was fully discussed and established in the case of Brydges v. the Duchele of Chandos, and Goodlitle v. Otway, which will be flated in a subsequent part of this chapter.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. vi. \$ 55-59.

alteration of intention.

108

7 Rell. Ab. 615 3 Atk.

73. 803.

An intended § 55. Even an intended alienation of an estate pre-

viously devised, which fails of taking effect, for want of some formality in the instrument, has been held to operate as a revocation. Thus, a feoffment without livery, and a bargain and sale not inrolled, have been held to be revocations of prior devises; because such intended alienations were considered as proofs of an

Shove v.

Pinckie,
5 TermR.124.

S 5%. It was held, in a modern case, by the Court of King's Bench, that a deed intended to operate as an appointment of uses, but not sufficient for that purpose, may have the effect of revoking a will, if the party appear to have had that intention,

Alienation to the Use of the Devisor.

\$ 57. An alienation to a trustee, without any intention of departing with the estate, and though the alienor takes back the old use, has been held to operate as a revocation of a prior devise. Because, in such cases, there is an interruption of the seisin; and also, because a presumption in favour of the heir at law arises from the alienation, that there was an alteration in the intention of the tessator.

Dyer 143 b. § 58. Thus it was determined in Mich. 44 Edw. 3. that where a man feifed in fee of lands devifable by custom, made his will, he having then two sons, and, upon their death, aliened the land in fee, and took back an estate in fee, the will was thereby revoked.

Lord Lincoln's Cafe,

\$ 59. Lord Lincoln devised all his estates to the per1Ab. Eq. 411.
Show. Parl.
Ca. 154.

\$ 59. Lord Lincoln devised all his estates to the perconceiving

conceiving that he should marry a certain Lady, thought the Lady never had any fuch intention, he conveyed his estate by lease and release to trustees, in consideration of his intended marriage, to the use of himself and his heirs, until the marriage should take effect, and then, as to part, for his intended wife, &c. marriage ever took place, and Lord Lincoln died without doing any other act. It was decreed, that this conveyance operated as a revocation of the will; and the decree was affirmed in the House of Lords.

It is faid, that the Judges were equally divided in this 4 Burr. 1940. case, and that all the Lords voted. Lord Mansfield 3 Atk. 803. Doug. 695. has faid of it, " The absurdity of Lord Lincoln's case is shocking, however it is now law."

§ 60. A. by his will dated in 1708, gave feveral Pollen v. pecuniary and specific legacies, and then gave all his real and personal estate, after all his debts and legacies paid, to B., on condition he took the name of A. upon him and the heirs male of his body, with divers re-Afterwards, in 1709, A. together mainders over. with 7. S. his trustee, by lease and release, conveyed several manors to trustees and their heirs, to the use of himself for life, without impeachment of waste; and that the trustees and their heirs should execute such conveyance and conveyances thereof, as A. by writing under his hand and feal, or by his last will, &c. should direct or appoint. In 1710 A. died, without altering or revoking the faid will, or making any other appointment touching the faid real estate. It was decreed,

Huband, 1 Ab. Eq. 4 12. 7 Br . Parl.

that

that the lease and release was a revocation of the will, and affirmed in the House of Lords.

Alienation to ftrengthen the Devile.

prefumed.

§ 61. An alienation made for the sole purpose of strengthening or giving effect to a previous devise, has, notwithstanding, been held to operate as a revocation, on account of the interruption of the seisin; for, in fuch a case, no alteration of intention could be

Huffey's Case Moo. 789. r Roll. Ab. 614.

a certain manor; afterwards, he made a feofiment of the same manor, to the use of such persons, and for fuch estates as he had already declared by his will. was adjudged, that this feoffment was a revocation of his will.

§ 63. A person covenanted, by indenture, to levy

§ 62. A bastard made his will, and thereby devised

Mitton. I Roll. Ab. 614.

Lutwich v.

a fine to the use of such persons as he should nominate by his will, and, afterwards, he made a will, by which he devised the lands to certain persons. He then levied a fine in pursuance of the covenant, and it was agreed Hick v. Mors. Amb. 215. that the fine operated as a revocation of the will.

§ 64. Where a person who has devised his lands Fine and Recovery. afterwards levies a fine, or fuffers a recovery of them, these acts will operate as a revocation of the preceding devile.

3 Will. Rep. 12.

§ 65. Thus, if a person seised in fee of lands, devises them, and afterwards levies a fine, though he declares the use to himself in fee, or makes no declaration,

ration, in which case, the old use results to him; yet this has always been held to be a revocation; because the courts will presume in favour of the heir, that the testator had an intention to alter or revoke his will, by fuch an act done after the will.

66. A common recovery has the same effect, as where a tenant in tail made his will, and thereby devised certain lands, and, afterwards, by bargain and fale inrolled, conveyed the same to a tenant to the pracipe, against whom a common recovery was suffered with voucher of the tenant in tail, to the use of himself in fee. It was determined, that the recovery operated as a revocation of the will.

Difter v. Difter, 3 Lev.

§ 67. Sir H. Turner being seised of a considerable Marwood, estate in tail male, with remainder to himself in fee, v. Turner, made his will, by which he devised his estate to his nephew (who was not his heir at law) in strict settlement. Afterwards, Sir H. Turner suffered a common recovery of this estate, to the use of himself in fee. Upon the back of the will was written, "This is my will;" and afterwards, " but not now so intended."

It was determined that the recovery, and the declaration of the uses of it to Sir H. Turner and his heirs, being subsequent to the will, and inconsistent therewith, as declaring the estates should go to his heir at law, and not to his devisee, operated as a revocation of the will. And it was observed, that a common recovery, as it is a folemn conveyance upon record, and stronger than a feofiment, must needs be a revocation; the recovery,

being suffered by the tenant in tail, plainly gains are absolute see derived out of that estate tail, and which see was never devised: consequently, it must be even stronger than the case, where a man having lands devises them, and afterwards makes a seoffment of them, though to the use of himself and his heirs, and though this use be the old use and to the old estate, yet, according to the several cases in t Roll. Ab. 614. it is a revocation; and the case of Dister v. Dister was cited as exactly in point.

te f. 65.

fon's v. eman, itk. 741, r. MSS.

§ 68. By marriage articles it was agreed, that the wife's estate, whereof she was tenant in tail, should be conveyed to the husband in fee. After the marriage, the husband devised those lands; and afterwards the husband and wife suffered a recovery of those lands, to such uses and for such estates as they should jointly appoint; and, in default of fueh appointment, to the use of the husband and his heirs. No appointment was made. It was decreed by Lord Hardwicke, that the will was revoked by the recovery: and his Lordship is reported to have said, " It is admitted that, if " the testator had been seised in see, at the date of the " will, and had afterwards fuffered a recovery, that 66 would have been a revocation: and yet the objec-" tion would have held equally there, of the altera-" tion being made only for the particular purpole to

enable him and his wife to dispose without any other

" form of conveyance. There are a great variety of

" cases, and nice and artificial distinctions, upon the

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cf. 431.

" favour to the heir. One rule, however, is certain, that if a man is feifed in fee, and disposes by will,

" and

- " and afterwards makes a conveyance taking back a
- " new estate, that is a revocation. So, if he devises
- "the land, and levies a fine without any use declared,
- " this is a revocation, and yet he takes back the old
- " use unaltered; which is a prodigious strong case."

§ 69. Vincent Darley, being seised of several real Darley v. and leasehold estates, made his will; by which, he de- Amb. 653. vised all his real estates in the counties of Devon and Cornwall to the respondent Langworthy, in strict settlement.

Langworthy, 3 Wilf. R. 6. 3 Bro. Parl. Ca.

Some years after making this will, the testator suffered a common recovery of several parts of the estates thereby devised, and, by proper deeds and conveyances, declared the uses of such recovery to himself in fee.

The heir at law of the testator filed his bill in the Court of Chancery, infifting that, as the recovery was fuffered by the testator long after the making of his will, and as the testator did not republish the same, or make any other will of the faid estates, after suffering fuch recovery, the will was thereby revoked, with respect to any devise therein made of any of the premises included in the recovery, and that they descended to the heir at law.

The cause was heard before Lord Chancellor Camden, when his Lordship ordered a case to be stated, for the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas, upon the following question, viz. "Whether the deed executed, Vol. VI. " and

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. vi. § 69-71.

"and the recovery suffered by Vincent Darley was a revocation of the will?" And, the case having been fully argued before that court, the judges certified their opinion, that the deeds executed, and the recovery suffered, by the testator Vincent Durley, were a a revocation of his will, as to the lands comprised in the recovery.

The Lord Chancellor decreed accordingly; and the House of Lords affirmed the decree as to this point.

been stated in a former chapter, the will, though made before the return day of the writ of entry on which the recovery was suffered, and to which it had relation, was held not to be revoked by the recovery; because the bargain and sale and recovery ought to be considered as one transaction, and as constituting one whole, by reference to its inception.

§ 71. The doctrine of prefumptive revocations apn Docf Prepears to have been carried much too far, and has been disapproved of by the ablest judges of modern times. rtions. Lord Mansfield has faid, "That constructive revoca-" tions contrary to the intention of the teffator ought . R. et not to be indulged. And that some overstrained " resolutions of that fort had brought a scandal on " the law." And on another occasion his Lording faid-" All revocations which are not agreeable to the 723. " intention of the tellator, are founded on artificial and abfurd reasoning." It is however now fully · lettled, fettled, that wherever a person who has devised an estate, afterwards makes any alteration in it, by any mode of conveyance whatever, inconfistent with the preceding devife; or by which fuch estate becomes in any respect different from what it was before; such an alienation will operate as a revocation of the prior devile:

§ 72. By articles made in 1777, previous to mar- Brydges v. riage, the Duke of Ghandos covenanted that he would, Chandos, within fix months after the marriage, cause various freehold and copyhold estates to be well and sufficiently conveyed to him, to the intent that the Duchess might become entitled to dower thereout; and also that he would within twelve months after the marriage and after fuch conveyances, fettle the faid estates, subject to dower, to the use of himself for life, remainder to trustees to preserve contingent remainders; remainder, after the decease of the Duke and Duchess, to other trustees for a term of years to raise portions for younger children; remainder to the first and other fons of the marriage in tail male, remainder to the right heirs of the Duke. The marriage took effect; and the Duke by his will, dated the 9th of January 1780, confirmed the articles, and devised all the estates which he had agreed to settle, in case of failure of issue male, to the Duchels for life, remainder to his daughters as tenants in common in tail, with other limitations.

Afterwards, (in October 1780) the Duke executed a lettlement, purporting to be in pursuance and performance

2 Vel. Jun.

formance of the articles; by which he granted and released all the estates comprised in the articles to trustees, to the use of himself for life; remainder as to part to the Duchess for life, and as to another part for securing a jointure of 2000 l. a year to the Duchess; remainder to trustees for a term of 2000 years to secure portions for younger children, nearly as in the articles; remainder to the first and other sons of the marriage; remainder to the Duke in sec.

Lord Loughborough faid, that a court of equity could not adopt different rules, respecting the transmission of estates, from those established at law. That the settlement being in many points inconsistent with the articles, and also with the will, must be deemed a revocation of the will, and decreed accordingly; and, on an appeal to the House of Lords, the decree was assisted.

7 Bro. Parl. Ca. 505.

Goodtitle v. Otway. 7 Term Rep. 199. § 73. Sir Thomas Cave, being seised in see of several estates, by articles entered into previous to his marriage with Lady Lucy Sherrard, agreed to make a provision for his intended wife, and the issue of the marriage out of those estates. Sir Thomas Cave made his will, dated 13th March 1791; by which he devised his estates (in case he should die without issue of his body) to his uncle the Rev. Charles Cave, and his issue male, in strict settlement.

By deeds of leafe and releafe, dated 25th and 26th May 1791, reciting the intended marriage, and that he had agreed, upon the treaty for the faid marriage,

to settle a jointure upon Lady Lucy. In consideration of the marriage, and of the fortune of Lady Lucy, Sir Thomas conveyed the estates in question to trustees and their heirs, to several uses. And by other deeds of leafe and releafe he conveyed other estates to trustees and their heirs, to the intent that Lady Lucy might receive an additional jointure; with a limitation of the land to trustees for 500 years, for better securing the payment of the faid additional jointure.

The marriage took place on the 2d of June 1791, and in about fix months Sir Thomas died without iffue, leaving Sarab Otway his heir at law.

A question arose in a suit in Chancery, between the devifee and the heir at law of Sir Thomas, whether the deeds of lease and release, of the 26th May 1791, operated as a revocation of the will?

By confent, the parties were ordered to proceed to a trial at the bar of the Court of Common Pleas; where a special verdict was found, stating the above facts. The Judges of the Court of Common Pleas delivered their opinion feriatim on the special verdict; and were unanimously of opinion, that the first deeds and Pull. R. of leafe and releafe operated as a revocation of the will, as to the lands comprised therein. And three of the Judges thought the second deeds of lease and release had the same effect; but Lord Ch. Just. Eyre was of opinion, that they did not operate as a revocation,

Vide 1 Bos

A writ of error was brought from this judgment in the Court of King's Bench; when Lord Kerlyon began by observing, that the marriage settlement executing the articles, and on which the principal question depended, limited the reversion in fee to Sir Thomas Cave, his heirs and assigns for ever; therefore the whole use was disposed of some way or other. His Lordship then stated the cases of Parsons v. Freeman, and Sparrow v. Hardcaftle; and observed, that the doctrine, which Lord Hardwicke wished to establish, was this:-that any alteration of the estate, or conveyance to uses, after making the will, though the old use remained, (which was the case here) was in law ? revocation of the will, Suppose that in this case Sir T. Cave had merely made a conveyance to the use of himself and his heirs for ever; that would undoubtedly have operated as a revocation of his will; then could the other uses, to which he conveyed the estate, make any alteration? His Lordship said, it had been supposed in the course of the argument, that the case of Brydges v. the Duchels of Chandos proceeded on equitable principles; but he knew that the Lord Chancellor meant by that decision to confirm the doctrine, established by Lord Hardwicke. His Lordship concluded by faying,-" I do not enter into the reasons, " upon which all the cases have been determined; be-" cause the best rule is " stare decisia". But my opiso nion is formed upon the authority of all the cases from the time of Lord Rolle. Such were the se opinions of Lord Trever, Lord Hardwicke, and " Lord Mansfield; the latter of whom, though find: se ing

ing fault with former decisions, thought himself " fettered by the authorities. I take it therefore, that " the law of the land is now clearly and indisputably "fixed, if at any time it can be fixed; that where "the whole estate is conveyed away to uses, though " the ultimate reversion of it comes back again to the ef grantor, by the same instrument, it operates as a " revocation of a prior will. That being the law, I 46 am bound (how unfortunate soever it may be in this " case) to give my opinion in favour of the de-" fendant; and consequently the judgement of the " Court of Common Pleas must be affirmed.

The Cause coming on again in the Court of Chan- 3 Vel. Jun. cery upon the equity referved, the court was clearly of opinion, that the will was revoked in equity, as well as at law, and decreed accordingly. And, on an ap- 7 Bro. Parl. peal to the House of Lords, the decree was affirmed.

Cz. 593.

§ 74. In the case of a revocation by the execution Parol Eviof a conveyance of lands, subsequent to a devise of dence not them, parol evidence is not admissible to prove that the testator meant his will should remain in force, and unrevoked by the subsequent conveyance.

§ 75. In the case of Goodtitle v. Otway, the plaintiff 2 Ves. Jun. went into evidence in the Court of Chancery of the testator's conversations with his lady and the attorney, who prepared all the instruments, to shew the motives for making the will, and that the testator had no intention to revoke it, and after the marriage referred to it as his will. But the Lord Chancellor was clearly of opinion

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opinion that the parol evidence, being evidence of a republication, if any thing, could not be received. That if the deed did not affect the will at law, it was out of the question; if it did, he could not set it up

2 H. Black. R. 516.

Ante.

§ 76. A conveyance obtained by fraud, will not A fraudulent operate as a revocation of a prior devise, because when fuch a conveyance is fet aside, it is considered as a mere cation. nullity.

Conveyance

§ 77. Francis Hawes being seised of the reversion Hawes v. in fee of an estate, subject to the life interest of his fa- 3Bre. R. 156. ther, made his will, and thereby disposed of it. testator's father afterwards obtained from him a conveyance of his reversion by fraud. And the Court of Chancery having directed the deed to be delivered up, to be cancelled, faid it was no deed, and therefore could not operate as a revocation of the will.

Wyatt,

§ 78. A mere alteration of the quality of an estate, without any intention of varying the quantity of the interest, or the disposing power of the owner, will not Estate. operate as a revogation.

Nor an Alteration of the Quality of an

§ 79. Thus where a man having feoffees to his use, before the statute 27 Hen. 8. devised the lands to another; and afterwards the feoffees made a feoffment of the land to the devisor. It was agreed that this feoffment did not operate as a revocation of the devise; for after the feoffment the devisor had the fame use which he had before.

r Roll. Ab. 616. pl. 3.

§ 80. It follows from this case that the acquisition of the legal estate alone, will not operate as a revocation of a devise. And Lord Hardwicke has said that if a person having an equitable estate, makes his will,

Amb. 119. 3 Atk. 749.

Thie XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. vi. & 80-82.

Williams, and afterwards takes, a; conveyance of the legal effate, rene, it is not a revocation.

S 81. It has been determined upon the same prinre of a ciples that the mere change of a trustee does not create a revocation of a prior devise.

1 v. ton, , 7 %,

§ 82. W. Watts devised all his real estates to trustees upon certain trusts. He afterwards made a codicil reciting that fince the publication of his will he had contracted for the purchase of certain lands, and thereby directed the truffees and executors named in his will, to pay the purchase money, and that the said purchased premises should be conveyed to the same uses as he had declared concerning his other estates. Afterwards the testator himself completed the purchafe, and took a conveyance of the effates to truffeet in trust for himself and his heirs. The question was, whether the conveyance of the new purchased lands to the trustees, subsequent to the codicil, was not a revocation, the testator at the time of making the codicil having only a trust estate, and the vendor being a trustee for him, so that before his death the legal estate was conveyed to other trustees. Bethurst decreed there was no revocation, relying much on the general proposition laid down by Lord Hardwicke in Parsons v. Freeman,-" That where a se man has an equitable interest in fee in an estate, " and afterwards takes a conveyance of the legal es affate to the same uses, this is no revocation."

-749

\$ 87. Sir John Gibbon having mortgaged his estates in fee, and then made his will by which he devised them. Afterwards he paid off the mortgage, and took a conveyance of the estate to a trustee for him-And the Court of King's Bench held that this being no more than a bare change of a trustee the will was not revoked.

§ 84. A partition between tenants in common does not operate as a revocation of a prior devile, even though fuch partition be corroborated by a fine.

Nor a Parti-

§ 85. Dorothy Kirby by her will, taking notice that Lusher v. the was tenant in common with another person, deyiled her moiety to trullees. She afterwards by indenture between her and the other tenant in common covenanted to levy a fine of all the premifes, and declared the uses thereof, as to certain farms, &c. being one moiety, to Dorothy Kirby and her heirs, and as to other farms, &c. being the other moiety, to the other tenant in common, and her heirs, and a fine was levied accordingly. A question having arisen whether this deed and fine operated as a revocation of the will, the Lord Chancellor referred it to the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, who gave their opinion that they were not a revocation, with which the Chancellor agreed, and decreed accordingly.

Kirby, 8 Vin. Ab 3 P. Wms. Rifley v. Baltinglafe, T. Raym.

§ 86. But where a partition is made, and a fine is Unless it exlevied, not merely to establish the partition, but also for another purpole, and the estate in the land is

tends to other Things.

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. vi. § 79—90. altered, it will then operate as a revocation of a former devise.

5 87. Henry and Robert Tickner being seised of an estate in gavelkind, Robert devised his undivided moiety to his wife in see. Afterwards by deed of partition and fine all the gavelkind estate which Robert had devised, was allotted entirely to Robert, to such uses as he should appoint by deed or writing, and in default of such appointment to him in see. Lord Ch. Just. Lee after mature deliberation held this transaction to be a revocation of the will.

S 88. A conveyance to revoke a will must be of the whole estate, and must extend as far as the appointment which the will has made, for if it is but of a part, it affects the will no farther than that part goes; if it is of a particular interest only, it will not operate as a revocation of the rest.

§ 89. It has been determined upon this ground that a lease made of lands already devised by will, only operates as a partial revocation, or a revocation pre tanto, of such will.

;infon pod, ar. 23. 1-97§ 90. A person devised his lands to his eldest son, and afterwards made a lease of them for thirty years to his second son to begin after his death. It was resolved that this lease only operated as a partial revocation of the will, quoad the lease, for both might well stand together. But if the lease had been made to the

the devise, then it would have been a revocation, because they would be inconsistent with one another.

Coke v. Bullock, Cro. Ja. 49.

§ 91. Although a mortgage in fee, made after the publication of a will, is a revocation of such will at law, yet in equity it is only a revocation pro tanto, and the equity of redemption shall go to the devisee.

Hall v. Dunch, 1 Vern. 329. 3 Atk 805. 2 P. Wms. 334.

§ 92. But if lands are devised to a person in see, and the testator afterwards mortgages them to the devisee, it is a revocation in toto, being inconsistent with the devise.

Harkness v. Bayley, Prec. in Cha. 514.

§ 93. A conveyance for raising money to pay debts, being only made for a particular purpose will only operate as a revocation *pro tanto* of a prior devise, so far as relates to the payment of the debts; and no farther.

Vernon v.
Jones, Prec.
in Cha. 32.
Ogle v. Cook,
cited 2 Bro.
R. 592.

§ 94. But where a person after having made his will, executed a conveyance in trust for payment of debts in a schedule, and instead of declaring the uses to himself in see, after payment of the debts, he declared that the trustees should convey to such uses and purposes as he by deed or will should appoint, and for default of appointment to himself in see, it was held to be a revocation.

Kenyon v. Sutton, cited 2 Vef. Jun. 600.

Tickner v. Tickner, Ante.

§ 95. With respect to leasehold estates, it has been long settled, that a surrender of a lease for lives, and the taking a new lease will operate as a revocation of a former devise of such new lease; for the testator by the surrender divests himself of his whole estate

Revocations, of Leafeholds.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. vi. \$ 95-95. in the old leafe, and acquires a new estate by the renewal.

Marwood v. Turner, 3 P. Wans, 163. \$ 96. Sir H. Marwood being seised of an estate for three lives, held of the Archbishop of Tork, made his will by which he devised this lease. He afterwards surrendered it, and took a new lease; it was determined that this surrender and renewal operated as a revocation of the devise of the lease; for by the surrender, the testator had put all out of him, had divested himself of the whole interest, so that there being nothing lest for the devise to work upon, the will must fall; and the new purchase being of a free-hold descendible, could not pass by a will made before such purchase.

Galton v. Hancock, 2 Atk. 424.

- § 97. A purchase of the reversion expectant on a lease for lives, will operate as a revocation pro tanto of a devise of such estates for lives, for the same reason.
- 5 98. Although a term for years acquired after the making of a will passes by it, yet if a testator device a term for years, of which he is then possessed, and afterwards surrenders it, and takes a new term, this will operate as a revocation of the new term.

Abney v.
Miller,
2 Atk. 593.
Rudftone v.
Anderson,
2 Ves. 418.
Hone v.
Mederaft,
1 Bro, Rep.
261.

§ 99. A person devised certain college leases for years to his mother, upon certain trusts. The testator afterwards surrendered the college leases thus given and took new leases. Lord Hardwicke decreed that the devise was revoked.

\$ 100. If however the words of a will shew that it was the tellator's intention to dispose of all terms for years, whereof he should die possessed, a renewed term will pale, for a term for years being only a chattel, there is no necessity for a possession at the time Antech. 3. when a device of it is made, or of a continuance of fuch possession till the testator's death.

S 101. A person devised in the following words; "As to all and fingular my leafehold estate, goods, " chattels, and personal estate whatsoever, I give the " fame to my daughter." The testator after making this will renewed a lease for years with the Dean and Chapter of Windfor, and Lord Hardwicke held that this passed by the will.

§ 102. Although a furrender and admittance of a copyhold tenant, operates in most cases as a revocation of a prior will of fuch copyhold, yet it has been determined that an admittance to a copyhold grounded on a prior furrender, does not operate as a revocation of an intermediate will.

Revocation of Copyholds.

\$ 103. B. North in 1724 furrendered certain copyholds, in confiderarion of marriage, to the use of himself for life, remainder to his wife for life, remainder to the children of the marriage in tail, remainder to himself in fee. In May 1725 he surrendered the same premises to the use of his will, and in April 1743 he made, his will, by which he devised them to his wife in fee. In May 1751, he was admitted according to the terms of the first surrender; and the question

question was, whether this admittance operated as a revocation of his will. Lord Mansfield said, that this case was directly within the principles of the case of Selwin v. Selwin, that the whole of a conveyance shall be taken together, and the several parts of it shall relate back to the principal part, so that either no alteration at all was made by the admittance, or if there was any, yet the admittance should have relation back to the time of making the surrender, therefore the admittance did not operate as a revocation. The other Judges concurred in the same opinion, and all agreed that after the surrender in 1724 to the uses of the marriage settlement the reversion still remained in

B. North; and that no alteration or change of estate

happened in this case.

Vide Thrustout v. Cunningham, Fearne Cont. Rem. 90.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DÉVISE.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Republication of Devises.

- 1. Nature and Effect of. 2. Re-execution is a Republica-
- 3. And also a Codicil. 11. Unles confined to Lands devised by the Will.
- | § 14. A furrender of a Copybold to the Use of a Will.
 - 16. Cancelling a Second Will republishes the First.
 - 18. But a Will once cancelled must be re-executed.

Section 12

Sa will of land is ambulatory during the life of Nature and the testator, and may be revoked by him at any time before his death, so it may be republished; and a republication of a will has a twofold effect, first, To give a will all the effect of a will made at the time of its republication; and, secondly, To set up and reestablish a will that has been revoked.

§ 2. The first mode of republishing a will, is by a Re-execution re-execution of it; and, although it was held before the statute of frauds, that any words importing an intention to republish a will, amounted to a republication, yet it is now fettled, that an express republication of a will must be attended with the same circumstances that are necessary to its first publication; for, other- Martin v. wife, the statute of frauds would be evaded.

is a Republi-

Savage, 1 Vel. 440. VOL. VI. § 3. It

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. vii. § 3-5.

§ 3. It was formerly held, that after the statute of 0.8 frauds, there could be no devife of lands by an implied republication, for the paper on which the devise was alk-Rep. contained ought to be re-executed. But it was after-90. ale v. wards determined, that a codicil duly attested and annfnexed to a will, or referring to a will, should operate **36.** as a republication of fuch will, fo as to make it take effect from the execution of the codicil; by which means, lands purchased after the execution of the will, and before the execution of the codicil, pass by it.

:y v. 1.Com. . 3 Bro. a. 85. \$ 4. A person, by a codicil executed according to the statute of frauds, reciting that he had made his will, added, "I hereby ratify and confirm my said will, "except in the alterations after mentioned." It was decreed, that the testator's signing and publishing this codicil in the presence of three witnesses, was a republication of his will, and both together made but one will; and, therefore, that lands purchased after the execution of the will, and before that of the codicil, passed by it. And upon an appeal to the House of Lords the decree was affirmed.

437.

his will, gave additional legacies and annuities, ratifying and confirming his will, and attested by three witnesses, in these words: "This will, with the several additions and alterations above, was signed, sealed, and republished by the testator as his last will and testament, in the presence of us the subscribing witnesses." He afterwards made another codicil on a separate piece of paper, which, though not dated, was agreed

agreed to have been made about four or five days before his death, in presence of three witnesses; reciting, that having in his will appointed several limitations and remainders of his estate, some of which were not agreeable to his present intent, he revoked so much as should be found inconsistent with that codicil, ratifying and confirming the other parts which should not interfere therewith. The attestation of which paper was, "Signared, sed, sealed, published, and declared by the testator, as a codicil to the last will and testament."

Sir J. Strange M. R. was of opinion, that the first codicil amounted to a republication; it answered the idea of a republication, being indorfed on the will, and attested as the statute required, the word republished was used, which put it out of doubt; but if not, it would have amounted to a republication, as operating by additional charge on the real estate, and then concluding by ratifying and confirming the will. all cases of republication, no precise form of words was necessary; but any denoting the continuance of the testator's mind, so far as he made no alteration, would do, 1 Roll. Ab. 617. (Z. 1.). He was also of opinion, that the second codicil amounted to a republication. It was an express declaration that the rest of his intent, not inconsistent therewith, should continue and be confirmed. It might be mischievous to construe, that no republication could be but by the teltator's taking the will in his hands and republishing that by indorfement on it, or annexing the codicil to the will itself; the law in favour of the power of devising had dispensed with many forms of expression K 2 which

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. vii. § 5-8.

which would be absolutely necessary in other instruments, and will infer republication from an act done as in 1 Roll. Ab. 617. The person intending to republish might be at a distance from the will itself, or might not have it in his power, by its being in another's custody, and might know the substance, though he could not repeat the particulars.

ofon v. gere, 16. 965, ref. 492. S 6. The preceding cases appear to establish the proposition, that where a codicil ratifies and consists a will, it operates as a republication of it. And Lord Hardwicke seems to have been of this opinion. But, in some subsequent cases, it was held, that a codicil which was not annexed to, or incorporated in the will, would not operate as a republication of it, unless an intention to republish appeared.

t. Gen. v. wning, ib. 571.

- § 7. Thus, it is laid down by Lord Canden, that a codicil only operates as a republication of a will in two cases. 1st, By being annexed to it: and, 2d, By the contents shewing the intention. And his Lordship decreed, in the case cited in the margin, that the will was not republished by a codicil, because the codicil was not annexed to the will; and there was nothing in the codicil which shewed any intent in the testator to republish the will.
- § 8. The doctrine laid down by Lord Camden in the above case appears, however, not to have been affented to, but that established in Acherley v. Vernon to be the better one.

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§ 9. A testator by a will properly executed, devised all his estates in the county of Kent that he might die feised or possessed of, to trustees, upon trust to sell them to pay his debts, and then to apply the remaining produce to various purposes. Afterwards he purchased other lands in Kent subject to a mortgage, and covenanted in the purchase deed to pay the mortgage money and gave a bond to indemnify the vendor. Afterwards by a codicil dated 29th November 1784, which he described to be a codicil to his last will and testament, he made some slight alterations in his will, and declared that he ratified and confirmed it. codicil was begun upon the last sheet of the will, and finished upon another sheet, and was executed in the presence of two witnesses. He afterwards made another codicil, which he began upon the last sheet of the first codicil, and finished upon another sheet, and which was executed in the presence of three witnesses. By the second codicil he revoked a bequest of five shillings per week, given by the will to his father, and another legacy; and instead of the latter gave the legatee one moiety of two leafehold houses, and concluded thus: "In witness whereof I the said testator have to this my writing, contained in this and 66 part of the faid sheet of paper which I declare to " be a farther codicil to my faid last will and testa-"ment, and which is to be accepted and taken as " part thereof, fet my hand and feal: that is to fay, my hand at the bottom of the faid preceding sheet, " and my hand and feal to this last sheet thereof, this 28th October 1788, in the presence of three witnesses." The question was, whether the second codicil was a republication K 3

Barnes v. Crowe, 1 Vef. Jun. 486. 4 Bro. R. 2.

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. vii. § 9.

republication of the will fo as to pass to the trustees lands purchased after the date of the will.

Lord Commissioner Eyre delivered the opinion of the court and faid, that upon looking into the cases of Acherley v. Vernon, and the Attorney General v. Downing, the question, if it was not to be considered as determined, and so determined as that the court could hardly confider itself at liberty to review it, would be a question of great difficulty; for it seemed to him that those two cases were in direct opposition to each other. The latter was determined by a very able Judge, and having the former before him, which increased the difficulty. But it seemed to him upon the best consideration, that the former case was so determined, and was of such authority, that every thing must yield to it. The principle that a codicil attested by three witnesses, shall be a republication feemed intelligible and clear. The testator's acknowledgement of his former will, confidered as his last will at the execution of the codicil, if not directly expressed in that instrument, must be implied from the nature of the instrument itself, because by the nature of it, it supposes a former will, refers to it, and becomes part of it, and being attested by three witnesses, his implied declaration and acknowledgement feems also to be attested by three witnesses; before the statute it was no part of the essence of the obligation, that the will should be re-executed. Any thing that expressed the testator's intention, that the will should be confidered as of a subsequent date, was sufficient. Since the statute re-execution of the will is not neces-

fary; nothing more is required than a writing according to the provisions of the statute expressing that intent. Therefore Lord Hardwicke might well fay, he faw no great difference between the words, "I defire " this codicil may be part of my will," and the words " I republish it," which it was there admitted, would In the Attorney General v. Downing, have done. Lord Camden supposes a particular intent to republish ought to appear; and that annexation, or particular expressions in the codicil would demonstrate that If that was necessary, not only Lord intention. Hardwicke's opinion could not stand, but neither could Acherley v. Vernon; for there was no particular intent to republish; but the testator referred to the will, made alterations, and gave-fufficient demonstration, that when making and executing the codicil he confidered the will as his will; and from that a republication was implied: But it was not particularly in his thoughts to do any formal act of republication. Upon confidering these cases he confessed he inclined to stand upon the general proposition stated by Lord Hardwicke, to shew the will, in the case before them, was republished. This case had auxiliary circumstances which might feem to bring it within the Attorney General v. Downing; for the testator expressly declared by the original will; that he meant it to operate upon all the lands he should die seised or possessed of. If he had not actually incorporated them together, he had inseparably annexed the codicil to the will, not by a wafer or wrapper, or any thing dehors the instrument; but by what he called internal annexation, and that of fuch a kind that all the papers taken together might K 4

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Ob. vii. S 9, 10.

might be confidered as published, when the codicil was executed. But he was afraid to rely upon these circumstances for sear of intrenching upon the statute, by raising evidence out of circumstances in their nature parol. The general ground was safer and better.

It was decreed that the codicil operated as a republication of the will.

§ 10. The doctrine laid down by Lord Commiffioner Eyre is confirmed by the following case.

olt v. er, i. Jun. Mr. Piggett made his will duly attested, by which he devised all his real estates whatsoever to trustees, upon several trusts. The testator made two codicils to his will which only related to personal estate, but were duly attested, the second of which contained these words—" To be annexed to my last will and testament, and made part thereof to all intents and purposes." The testator had purchased a real estate prior to the making of the second codicil, and the question was, whether the codicil operated as a republication of the will, so as to pass that estate,

Sir W. Grant, M. R. after stating all the preceding cases, said the Lords Commissioners in Barnes v. Crowe appeared to have held that in Acherley v. Vernon it was established that every codicil duly attested ought to be held a republication, and to have adopted and acted upon that rule in that case. Their opinion seemed to be that the codicil was incorporated in the will. The general proposition referred to by Lord Commissioners

Commissioner Eyre was, that the execution of a codicil should in all cases be an implied republication. Lord Commissioner Eyre stated the particular circumstances in that case, amounting to what he called internal evidence of annexation: the first codicil which was not duly executed was begun upon the last sheet of the will, and the codicil duly attested was begun upon the last sheet of that codicil. But Lord Commissioner Eyre inclined to think annexation could have no effect, and they abandoned that ground for fear of intrenching upon the statute, by raising evidence out of circumstances in their nature parol, and took the general ground as fafer and better. Undoubtedly therefore that case was determined upon that general ground. It would be impossible without contradicting that case, which, as it laid down a general rule, he had no disposition to do, to determine in this case against the republication. Except that single circumstance which Lord Commissioner Eyre expressly laid out of the question, the annexation, there was no substantial difference between that case and this. 'That afforded a certain rule, and if he departed from that, it would only be to fet every thing loofe again, and not to get back to, what he thought the better, the old rules, for then Acherley v. Vernon would be in the way. He was therefore disposed from the convenience of adhering to fettled rules, and deference to former decisions, to hold the codicil a republication. And decreed accordingly,

Vide Lord Walpole v. Lord Cholmondeley, 7 Term R. 138.

§ 11. But where the effect of a codicil is confined to the lands devised by the will to which it is annexed,

Unless conined to Lands
devised by the
it Will,

[XXVIII. Devise. Cb. vii. S 11, 12.

coperate as a republication of fuch will, fo as purchased lands.

George Bowes devised all his freehold and lands to trustees, upon certain trusts; he purchased other lands, and then made a hereby after reciting that he had devised all d and copyhold lands to truftees, he revoked to far as related to two of the truftees named I, and devised his faid lands, &c. to the ees upon the same trusts, and concluded by the codicil to be a part of his will. Upon it out of Chancery for the opinion of the King's Bench, Lord Kenyon faid, it was a codicil confirming a will of lands in gene-, would pass lands purchased between the the will, and the codicil. But here the was, whether it was the intention of the pass by the codicil any thing more than e passed by the will itself. Now what was the testator gave all his real and copyhold feveral trustees by his will, in words suffimprehensive to carry all the estates of which en seised. Then he made a codicil, not to is will, but only to revoke fo much of it, as estates in some of the trustees whom he had his will, and then he gave bis faid lands, is those lands which he had before given by o the rest of the trustees. The court certithe codicil was not a republication of the to extend the operation of the will to the is purchased after the will was executed; it extended 5

extended to the estates devised by the will and no. farther.

The Court of Chancery decreed accordingly, and on an appeal to the House of Lords the decree was affirmed; Lord Thurlow differting, and holding the codicil to be a republication.

§ 13. In the case of Piggott v. Waller, the Master 7 Ves. Jun. of the Rolls said, he did not conceive the decision in Strathmore v. Bowes to be inconsistent with that of Barnes v. Crowe; it did not follow from the doctrine in the latter case, that, if it distinctly appeared upon the face of the codicil that it was not the intention to republish the will, the codicil should be held a republication. In Strathmore v. Bowes the court held that it appeared upon the face of the codicil, that it was not the intention to pass any other lands than those which were devised by the will. It would have been a contradiction therefore to make it pass after purchased lands.

§ 14. A furrender of a copyhold estate to the use of a person's will may be worded in such a manner as to operate as a republication of a former will, so as to a Will. make the copyhold estate pass by such will.

A Surrender of a Copyhold to the Use of

§ 15. A person having made his will, and devised Heylin v. all his freehold and copyhold estates to several uses, Heylin, Cowp. 130. afterwards purchased other copyhold lands, which he furrendered thus: " To the uses declared or to be de-" clared in and by his last will and testament." The

Court

Court of Chancery directed a case to be sent to the Court of King's Bench, whether these copyholds passed by the will.

Lord Mansfield said, when a man republishes his will, the effect is, that the terms and words of the will should be construed to speak with regard to the property he is seised of at the time of the date of the republication, Just the same as if he had such additional property at the time of making his will. Therefore, if one devifes lands by the name of B. C. and D. and purchases new lands, and republishes his will, the republication dees not concern such new lands, because the will speaks only of the particular lands B. C. and D.; but if the testator, in his will, says, I give all my real estate, a republication will affect such newly purchased lands, because it is then the same as if the testator had made Apply this rule to the case of a surrender, a new will. and, I am of opinion, that the furrenderor may express himself so as to make it relate to a will actually made, and that the copyhold lands so surrendered will pass by Suppose a testator seised of copyhold lands makes his will, without a furrender, if he afterwards furrender them to the use of his will, such surrender will clearly make his will good, and is effectual to pais them, because it only obviates the mode and form of What has the testator done here? having conveyance. made his will, and declared his lands to uses, he furrenders his newly purchased copyhold lands to the uses, intents, and purposes declared, or to be declared in his will; it is precifely the fame thing as if he had faid, and whereas I have made a will to and for any devited

all my lands to 7. S. to fuch and fuch uses, I mean, these newly purchased lands should pass to the same uses. The Court certified, that the surrender did, by express reference to the uses declared by his will, adopt and apply the words of the will to the copyhold lands, as if the testator had been seifed thereof at the time of making the faid will, and, therefore, they were subject to the same uses to which all the testator's copyhold lands were devised.

§ 16. Where a person made a will, and afterwards revoked it by making another will, but did not actually cancel it, the cancelling of the fecond will was held to be a republication of the first.

Cancelling a Second Will republishes the Firth.

§ 17. A person made a will in 1757, and another Goodright v. in 1763; the former was never cancelled, the latter 4 Burr. 2512. was cancelled by the testator himself: both were in the testator's custody at the time of his death; the second cancelled, the first uncancelled. The counsel for the heir at law contended, that the second will revoked the first, and, being afterwards cancelled, the testator had died intestate; and cited the case exparte Hillier, 3 Atk. 798. where Sir George Lee determined, that the execution of a fecond will was a revocation of a first, though the fecond was afterwards cancelled; and that the cancelling the fecond did not fet up the first, which was the same point, only, that it was personal property.

Lord Mansfield said, that, with regard to the case ex parte Hillier, Mr. Atkyns only reported what passed in Chancery; there might be other circumstances appearing to the ecclesiastical court, which might amount to a revocation of a will of personal estate. Here, the intention of the testator was plain and clear. A will was ambulatory till the death of the testator. If the testator lets it stand till he dies, it is his will; if he does not suffer it to do so, it is not his will. Here he had two. He had cancelled the second, it had no essect, no operation; it was as no will at all, being cancelled before his death; but the former, which was never cancelled, stood as his will

Mr. Justice Yates said, a will had no operation till the death of the testator; the second will never operated, it was only intentional. The testator changed his intention, and cancelled it; if, by making the second, the testator intended to revoke the former, yet that revocation was itself revocable, and he had revoked it.

But a Will once cancelled must be re-executed. S 18. But, where a person having made a new will, cancelled the former one, and afterwards cancelled the latter will, it was held, that this did not amount to a republication of the former will; because, where a will is once cancelled, nothing but a re-execution of it will amount to a republication.

Burtenshaw v. Gilbert, Cowp 49. § 19. Nicholas Newenden made a will in 1759, of which, he executed a duplicate, and gave it to another person. He made a second will in 1761, at which time he cancelled one of the copies of his first will, by tearing off the seal. After the testator's death, both the first

first and second wills were found together in a paper cancelled, and the duplicate of the first will was found uncancelled in the testator's room among other papers. It was determined, that the testator had died intestate: for the cancelling the copy which the testator had in his possession of the first will, was a cancelling of the duplicate; and, therefore, at the time of making the second will, the first was, upon every principle of law, most clearly revoked, and could never be set up again, but by a re-execution.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. VIII.

Of void Devises.

- § 2. 1ft. Devise to the Heir at
 - 4. Though charged with Debts,
 - 9. The Devisee must be sole Heir.
- 11. A Difference in the Estate renders the Devise good.
- 16. 2d. Devises to charitable Uses. 17. 3d. Where there has been Fraud.
- 19. 4th. Where the Devise du before the Devisor.
- 28. 5tb. Uncertainty.

Section 1.

DEVISES are in some cases void ab initio, as where the testator, devises what the law already gives, or in mortmain, or where any fraud has been practised on the testator. Devises may also become void by an event subsequent to the will, as where the devise dies in the lifetime of the devisor.

ra Devise to the Heir at Law. § 2. With respect to the first sort of devises which are void ab initio, it is a rule of law that where a testator makes the same disposition of his estate as the law would have done if he had been silent, the will is unnecessary and void. Therefore if a person devises his lands to his heir at law in see, it is void, and the heir will take by descent, as his better title, for the descent strengthens the title, by taking away the entry of such as may possibly have a right to the estate;

Plowd. 545. 1 Inft. 12 b. n. 2. 2 Saund. R. 7. note. whereas if the heir takes by the devise, he is then only in by purchase.

§ 3. So if a person devises lands to his wife for Baspool's life, remainder in fee to J. S. who is his heir at law, 2 Leon. 101. it is a void devise as to the remainder, because the reversion would have descended to 7. S. after the determination of the particular estate.

§ 4. Although the devisor charges the estate with the payment of debts, or portions to his younger children, yet if he afterwards devises the estate to his heir at law in fee, it will be void and the heir will take by descent.

Though charged with

§ 5. A person devised to each of his children 20 1. Haynworth when they attained the age of twenty-one years; and devised all his estates to his eldest son, to hold to him 833.919. and his heirs; upon condition he should pay to his other children the faid fums appointed to them; and if he did not pay the same, then the lands to go to the younger children and their heirs. Adjudged that the eldest son took by descent.

§ 6. A person seised in see devised lands to his wife for life, and after her decease to his next heir at law, and to his or her heirs; provided fuch heir should pay 1000 l. to fuch person or persons as his wife should appoint. It was resolved that the heir took by defeent, and not by the will. And it would be mifchievous if every little legacy should alter the course o£. Vel. VI.

Com. Rep. 72.

of descent upon which the heir might plead to the obligation of the ancestor, riens per descent.

Allen v. Heber, 1 Black. R. 22. § 7. Action of debt on the bond of the father to whom the defendant was heir. Plea riens per descent; the fact was, that the father had devised his lands to the defendant charged with debts. And the question was, whether this made him a purchaser.

The court said, if the tenure or quality of the estate be altered, the heir is a purchaser; but a charge on the estate does not alter the manner of the heir's taking the land. A devise is void, where it gives the same estate as would be taken by descent.

Judgment for the plaintiff.

Smith v. Trigg, 1 Stra. 487. § 8. The same rule is applied to copyholds, and therefore a surrender of a copyhold to the use of a will, and a devise thereof to the heir at law, will not give the devisee an estate by purchase.

The Devilee must be sole Heir, § 9. The devisee must be sole heir to the lands devised, to render the devise void, for if he is only one of the heirs, he will take under the devise.

Reading v. Royston, 1 Salk. 242. 2 Ld. Raym. \$29. Com. R. 123. § 10. A. B. having two daughters, one of them had iffue a fon and died. A. B. devised all his estate to this son of his daughter in see; and the question was, whether the son should take all by this devise, or one moiety by descent, and the other by devise, for there could not be a descent of a moiety to one copar-

cener

cener as heir. One could not plead a descent uni filiæ et cobaredi, but it is a descent to all; and therefore it was resolved that the grandson took by the devise.

§ 11. Where an estate is devised by a will to an heir A Difference at law, different in point of quality from that which he would have taken by descent, the will shall prevail, and the devifee take under it as a purchaser. And therefore it is laid down in Plowden, that if a man 545. devifes his land to his fon and heir, to have to him and the heirs of his body, this is a good devise, because it is another estate than he would have had by descent.

renders the Devise good.

§ 12. A person devised to his eldest son, and to his heirs and affigns, all other his real estate not before devised. Nevertheless, in case he should die without issue, not having attained twenty-one, then from and immediately after his death under age, and without iffue, unto the testator's son William.

Scott v. Scott. Amb. 383.

Lord Keeper Henley after having taken time, gave his opinion that the eldest son took by devise, as having under the will a different estate than would have descended to him, the one being pure and absolute, the other not.

• § 13. An alteration in the quality of the estate will also have the same effect. Thus in Mich. 37, 38 Eliz. Lord Coke who was then Attorney General, demanded of the Court of King's Bench their opinion on this

Cro, Eliz.4314

L 2

case.

case. A man having two daughters being his heirs, devised his lands to them and their heirs, and died. Whether they should take as joint-tenants by the devise, or as coparceners by descent? And all the justices held clearly that they should have it as joint-tenants. For the devise gave it to them in another degree than the common law would have given it.

Beare's Case, 1 Leon. 112.

§ 14. In a formedon in the descender brought by A. B. and C. of lands in gavelkind, the warranty of their ancestor was pleaded in bar against them; upon which they were at issue, if assets by descent? It was found by verdict that the father of the demandants was seised in see, being of the nature of gavelkind, and devised the same to the demandants, being his heir by the custom, and to their heirs equally to be divided amongst them; and if the demandants should be accounted in of the lands by descent or devise was the question? It was the opinion of the court, that they should be in by the devise; for they were now joint-tenants, and the furvivor should have the whole; whereas, if the lands should be holden in law to have descended, they should be parceners, and so, as it were, tenants in common, and so by the opinion of the court, the warranty pleaded with affets was no bar.

Fearne's Op. 128.

§ 15. In an opinion of Mr. Fearne's which has been published, he says, that a devise to the heir and another, as tenants in commom, will not prevent the heir's taking his moiety by descent. For suppose 2 testator devises a moiety or any other undivided share

of his real estate to a stranger, making no disposition at all of the remaining undivided share, such remaining share would of course descend to his heir at law, and he must hold it in common with the devisee of the undivided share devised. It was clear therefore that an heir might take by descent, as tenant in common with a devisee, an undivided part of the estate, which his ancestor was folely seised of, and it appeared to be immaterial whether the share he so takes is expressly devised to him, or left unnoticed by the will; for if expressly devised, he takes it in common, and if not noticed, he takes it in the same manner; and a devise to two or more as tenants in common, is in effect a devise of one undivided part to Vide infra, one, and of another undivided part to the other; fo that under fuch a devise to an heir and a stranger as tenants in common, the heir takes as if one undivided moiety were devised to the stranger, and the residue to himself; that is, in the same manner as if no disposition at all of such residue had been expressed in the will, in which case he would have taken by descent; and therefore the same estate being devised to him in such residue, as he would have taken by defcent, the general rule respecting devises to an heir, extends to it.

§ 16. In consequence of the statute 9 Geo. 2. c. 36. 2d. Devises to all devises and bequests of lands and tenements, or of Charitable Uses. any sums of money to be laid out in the purchase of Tit. 32. lands and tenements for any charitable uses whatsoever are void.

ch. 2. f. 32.

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3d. Where there has been Fraud.

Kerrick v. Bransby, 7 Bro. Par. C2. 437. Webb v. Claverdon, 2 Atk. 424. § 17. The third case in which a devise is void ab initio is where any fraud or circumvention has been practised on the testator, or where he was incapable of making a will from weakness of mind. But if the validity of a will is impeached on these grounds a court of equity will not set it aside, but will direct a trial at law on the issue of devisavit vel non; for if the will be obtained by fraud, or be made by a person incapable of devising, it is not in point of law the testator's will; and therefore these points are proper to be tried before a jury.

Doe v. Allen, 8 Term. R. 147. § 18. It was determined in a modern case that in order to set aside a will for fraud, parol evidence might be given of questions asked by the testator at the time of executing his will, whether the contents were the same as those of a former will.

4th. Where the Device dies before the Devicor.

Domat, V. 2... p. 98.

§ 19. With respect to the case where a devise becomes void by an event subsequent to the making of the will; it is a rule that if the devisee dies before the devisor, the devise becomes void. This doctrine was probably adopted from the rule of the civil law, pro non scriptis sunt iis relicte qui vivo testatore decedunt.

Brett v. Rigden, Plow. 341. § 20. A. devised lands to B. and his heirs; B. died in the lifetime of the testator. Afterwards the testator told the heir of B. that he should have the land which he had devised to B. The question was, whether the heir of B. should take any thing by this devise. It was determined that he should not, for it was a principle of law that in all gifts, whether by devise or otherwise,

there

there ought to be a person in esse capable of taking at the time the gift vests, and as the thing devised cannot vest till the death of the devisor, at which time the devisee was dead, it followed that he could take nothing by the devise. As to the word heirs being inserted in the devise, it was only used as a word of limitation, to denote the quantity of estate which the devisor meant to give, and not with an intention to describe the heirs of B. or to give them any thing.

§ 21. Henry Fuller having iffue four fons, John, Fuller v. Richard, Edward, and Henry, devised lands to his runer, Cro. Eliz. 422. fecond fon and the heirs of his body, and after his death without iffue, then to his third fon. The second fon died in the lifetime of his father; and it was adjudged that the iffue of the fecond fon took nothing by the devise, it being lapsed, but that the third son might enter.

§ 22. Thomas Addison having two daughters, de- Hutton v. vised all his estates to his second daughter and the heirs of her body begotten, and for want of such issue, to his eldest daughter. The second daughter died in the lifetime of the testator, leaving a son. Adjudged that the devise to the second daughter became void by her dying in the lifetime of the testator, and that her fon could not take as heir of her body.

2 Vern. 722.

§ 23. Robert Wynn devised his estate to his brother Wynn v. Maurice Wynn and the heirs male of his body, remainder to Owen Wynn and the heirs male of his Ca. 95. body; Maurice and Owen Wynn died in the lifetime

of the testator, but Owen Wynn lest an only son who claimed under the devise. It was resolved that the son of Owen Wynn took nothing.

Goodright v. Wright, 1 P.Wm.397. 1 Stra. 25. 10 Mod. 370.

§ 24. One seised in see devised lands to A. and his issue, remainder to B. and his issue, remainder to the heirs of A.—A. died without issue in the lifetime of the testator, and B. died in the lifetime of the testator, leaving issue the desendant who was also the heir of A.; and the plaintiss was the heir of the testator. The question was, "whether, as the devisees A. and B. both died in the lifetime of the testator, the issue of B., who was born after the will was made, and so could not take jointly with the devisees, could take either as the heir of the body of B. or as right heir of A."

Lor Chief Justice Parker delivered the unanimous opinion of the court, that this case was exactly within the reason of the case of Brett v. Rigden, 1st, Because as well in this case the word "iffue," as in that the word "beirs," was clearly used as a word of limitation, viz. to measure out the quantity of estate that the devise was to take, and not as a word of purchase; the devise only being in the view and consideration of the testator, and the words "beir," or "iffue," mentioned for nothing else but to limit what estate the devise should take.

Hodgson v. Ambrose, Doug. 337. Infra, ch. 14.

Warner v. White, 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 435. § 25. Richard White being seised in see of several estates in the county of Cork, and having issue Simon White his eldest son, and Hamilton White his second

fon,

fon, devised all his lands in Bantry to his eldest fon Simon White and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten; and, for default of issue of his said son Simon, then he devised his said estate to his son Hamilton White, and the heirs of his body.

Simon White died in the lifetime of his father, leaving iffue four fons and four daughters. The question was, whether the eldest son of Simon White took any thing by this devise, or whether it lapsed to Hamilton White the person next in remainder.

The Court of King's Bench in Ireland determined, that the eldest son of Simon White should take under this devise; but this judgment was reversed in the Court of King's Bench in England. A writ of error was then brought in the House of Lords; and it was argued on behalf of the eldest son of Simon White, that he ought to take under this devise, 1st, Because it was plain that the testator did not mean to exclude the issue of his eldest fon from the inheritance, the children of Simon being alive, and known to the teftator, at the time he made the devise to Simon and the heirs of his body. 2d, Because the remainder to Hamilton White was expressly limited to take effect. only in default of iffue of the testator's fon Simon: and no devise was made of the estate until such default should happen; and it is a princple in law, that the heir shall take every thing which is not devised from 3d, Because courts of justice have been always anxious to effectuate the intentions of testators. where they are not contrary to the rules of law, or **fettled**

settled authorities; and there was no case to be found in which it had been adjudged, that a devise to a man and the heirs of his body lapsed for the benefit of a person in remainder, from the circumstance of the first devisee dying in the testator's life time, where it appeared that the heir of the body of the first devisee was likewise heir at law of the testator.

On the other fide it was contended, that, by the established rules of law, the devise to Simon became void by his death in the lifetime of the testator, and the remainder to Hamilton the second son, took effect immediately on his father's death. That the doctrine had been adopted in early times, and had continued down to the present. It was established in the early part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and was recognized in a variety of cases down to the year 1780; nor was it ever judicially contradicted or impeached. But there appeared at the end of the report of Fuller v. Fuller, Cra. Eliz. 422. a dictum of Lord Chief Justice Popham, that where a devise was to' a son in tail, his issue, in case of his death in the lifetime of his father, should take before the remainder-man. But this at most was an extra-judicial opinion, and was not admitted in the case of Hodgson v. Ambrose.

Infra, ch. 14.

After counsel had been heard in this case, the sollowing question was put to the Judges;—" Whether, " in the event that had happened, the desendant " Hamilton White took any and what estate in the

" lands of Bantry, under the devise to him, for de-

" fault of iffue of Simon White."

The

The Chief Baron delivered the unanimous opinion of the Judges present, that Hamilton White took an estate tail; and the judgement of the Court of King's Bench in England was affirmed.

- § 26. A republication of a will after the death of a devisee in tail will not give any estate to the issue of the devisee.
- § 27. N. Goddard devised lands to her god-daughter Doe v. Kett, and the heirs of her body, who died in the lifetime of the tellatrix, leaving a fon. The devisor knew of the death of the device and of the birth of her fon, after which she made a codicil which operated as a republication of her will. It was determined that the devise having become void by the death of the devicee, did not operate by its republication fo as to give any estate to the son of the devises.

§ 28. Where it is impossible to discover from the 5th. Uncerwords of a will, to whom the estate is given, the will is void for uncertainty.

Thomas v. Thomas. Infra.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. IX.

Of the Construction of Devises .- General Rules.

- § 1. No particular Form necessary.
- 4. Rules of Construction.
- 37. A Perpetuity cannot be created by Will.
- 18. Confiruation Cy Pres.
- 12. Contradictory Devises.
- 23. No Averment allowed to enplain Wills.
- 26. Exception where there is a latent Ambiguity.

Section 1.

No particular Form necesfary. 3 P.Wms. 27.

WILL being confidered as a disposition made at a time when the testator cannot have the assistance of persons skilled in the law, or, as it is usually expressed, when he is inops consilii, the Judges have at all times held, that a will shall not be construed strictly like a deed, but that the intention of the testator. though not expressed in the proper legal and technical words, shall, notwithstanding, be carried into effect; it being a maxim of the English law, qued ultima veluntas testatoris perimplenda est secundum veram inten-The law has, therefore, not prescribed any particular form, in which a devise or will of lands must be made; so that any writing, by which the intention of a person appears, to give or dispose of his lands after his decease, though in the form of a deed, will be confidered as a good devise.

§ 2. Clement

§ 2. Glement Witham, by indenture made between him of the one part, and Orbell and Skin of the other part, declared his intention to raise portions for his children, and to pay his debts, and thereby fettled his lands on Orbell and Skin, in trust to sell the same, &c. and made them executors to the uses aforesaid; and figned, fealed, published, and declared this to be his last will, in the presence of several witnesses. Court of Chancery declared this to be a good will.

Hickson v. Witham. Finch. R. 195. Green v. Proude, 1 Mod. 117.

The Clymer v. Littler, 1 Bla. R. 345.

§ 3. In the case of Habergham v. Vincent, Lord Loughborough, Mr. Justice Buller, and Mr. Justice Wilfon, held, that the deed poll being intended to operate after the tellator's death, was tellamentary; and, though void as to the freehold, for want of three witnesses, passed the copyhold.

Ante c. 5. 1. 47.

§ 4. No technical words are necessary to convey a testator's meaning, and, whenever that is doubtful, it must be collected from the scope of the whole will, compared with its feveral parts; for Courts of Justice 2 Burr. 770. cannot make a will for the party, nor interpret it by any arbitrary construction. But that mode of expression is to be preferred, which gives effect to every part of the 2P.Wm. 282, will, so that each word may have its particular operation, and not be rejected, if any construction can posfibly be put upon it.

Rules of Construction.

§ 5. The intention of the testator is to be collected 3 Burr. 1541. from the whole will, ex visceribus testamenti, so as to leave the mind quite satisfied about what the testator meant; and, as a will of lands must be in writing,

fuch

fuch collection of the testator's intention must be derived from the will itself, for no averment or parol evidence can be admitted to explain any thing dubious upon the face of the will, except in a few instances, which will be mentioned hereafter.

§ 6. General words in one part of a will may be reftrained by fublequent words, and shall be construed so as not to defeat the intention of the testator, to be collected from any other part of the will. But, where there is a manifest general intent, the construction fhould be fuch as to effectuate it, though, by that construction, some particular intent may be defeated.

§ 7. The situation of a testator, the number of his 1 P.Wm. 286. 4Bro. R. 441. children, and the different kinds of property whereof he was feifed, at the time of making his will, are circumstances from which arguments may be drawn re-2 Vel. 616. specting his intention. And it has been determined, Dec v. Fyldes, that the same words may have a different construction Cowp. 833. when applied to different kinds of property.

§ 8. The construction ought to be such, that the 2 Burr. 1 108. intent of the testator may be rendered confistent with the rules of law; for, otherwife, every man would make a new law to himself, the metes and bounds of property would be vague and indeterminate, which would end in its total infecurity.

2 P.Wm.741. § 9. Technical words are prefumed to be used in the Doug. 341. sense which the law has appropriated to them, unless the contrary appears. But where the intention of the testator

2 Burr. 38. 4 Term R. 82.

8 Term R. 5.

Doug. 341.

testator is plain, it will be allowed to control the legal operation of the words, however technical.

- § 10. Introductory words often affift in shewing the Cowp. R. intention of a testator; and, in such cases, the courts have laid hold of them, as they do of every other circumstance in a will, which may help to guide their judgment to the right and true construction of it.

§ 11. An heir at law shall not be disinherited by a Prec. in Cha. will, unless there are express words, or a necessary im- Cowp. R. og. plication; for the title of the heir is founded on the laws of descent, which are certain, and is therefore not to be defeated by an uncertain devise.

- § 12. A dubious expression in a will may be Hayes v. Foord, infra. explained by a codicil, or schedule annexed to such will.
- § 13. Declarations of trusts executed, contained in Vide Tit. 32. a will, are construed in the same manner as devises of ch. 23. s. 32. legal estates; but, where a conveyance or settlement B. 1. c. 6. s. 8. is directed to be made, a court of equity will construe the will more liberally, in order to effectuate the intention of the tellator.
- § 14. In the construction of wills, adjudged cases 1 Burr. 233. may be argued from, if they establish general rules of construction, to find out the intention of the testator. And where once a court of justice has determined the meaning of certain words, or forms of expression, the fame effect will in all future cases be annexed to them;

Doug. 340.

for the great object, in questions of property, is certainty: and Lord Mansfield has observed, that if are erroneous or hasty determination has got into practice, there is more benefit derived from adhering to it than if it were to be overturned.

Law Tracts 295. Vide Fearne Cont. Rem. 266.

vide Thompfon v.Lawley,

infra.

§ 15. Mr. Hargrave has justly observed, that if courts either of law or equity (in both of which the rules of interpretation must be the same) should indulge an unlimited latitude of forming conjectures upon wills, instead of attending to their grammatical or legal construction, the consequence must be endless sitigation. Every title to an estate that depends upon a will must be brought into Westminster Hall; for, if once we depart from the established rules of interpretation, without a moral certainty that the meaning of the testator requires it, no interpretation can be fafe, till it has received the fanction of a court of justice; for, how can a client or a purchaser be assured that the conjectures of the most able counsel, or the most experienced conveyancer, will be in all points the fame as the conjectures of the Judges or the Chancellor.

5 Term R. 561. 8 Term R. 502. § 16. In a modern case, Lord Kenyon said, "Had there not been such a current of authorities as we find in the books since the passing of the statute of wills, on the construction of wills, to further (as it has been called) the intentions of devisors, perhaps it would have been better that the same strict words had been required in testamentary dispositions of land as in those by deed; because then the language of passing estates would have been so familiar, that "few

- " few questions would have arisen on wills. For it
- 44 has been often observed, that few questions arise on
- "the construction of deeds, when compared to those
- " which daily arise on wills. But we are bound to
- " consider the series of authorities on this subject as
- " the law of the land; and it would be extremely
- "dangerous now to remove those land-marks of real
- er property, on which mankind have acted for such a
- " length of time,"
- § 17. The general principles which have been stated A Perpetuity in Title 32. ch. 26. respecting perpetuities, are as fully adopted in the construction of wills, as in that of deeds. It may, therefore, be laid down, that lands cannot be devised in such a manner as to render them unalienable for a longer period than a life or lives in being, and twenty-one years and nine months after.

cannot be created by Willes R. 164. Scaward v. Willock, 5 East. R. 198.

§ 18. There is, however, a difference, in cases of Construction this kind, between a deed and a will; for, in the case of a deed, all the limitations are totally void. But, in the case of wills, the courts do not, if they can avoid it, construe the devise to be utterly void, but expound the will in such a manner as to carry the testator's intention into effect, as far as the rules respecting perpetuities will allow, which is called a construction cy pres.

§ 19. A person devised his estate to the drapers company and their successors, in trust to convey the premises to his godson M. H. for life, and, upon the death of the said M. H. to his first son for life, and so Vol. VI. M to

Humberston v. Humberfton, P. Wms. 332.

to the first son of that son for life, &c.; and if no iffue male of the first son, then to the second son of the said M. H. for life, and so to his first son, &c. On a bill brought for an execution of the trusts of this will, Lord Cowper said, "Though an attempt to make a "perpetuity for successive lives be vain, yet, so far as is consistent with the rules of law, it ought to be complied with; and, therefore, let all the sons of these several Humberstons that are already born, take estates for their lives, but, where the limitation is to the first son unborn, there the limitation to such un-

Pitt v. Jackfon, 2 Bro, R. 51.

§ 20. So, where there is a proviso in a will, the effect of which would be to prevent a power of alicnation for a longer period than the law allows, such proviso will be deemed void, and the rest of the will good.

Lade v. Holford, 3 Burr. 1416. Black. R. 428. Amb. 479.

§ 21. Sir John Lade devised certain lands to trustees and their heirs to the use of his cousin John Inship for life, remainder to trustees to preserve contingent remainders; remainder to his first and other sons in tail male; remainder to the use of the trustees and their heirs during the life of Ann Nutt, in trust to apply the rents and profits for the benefit of such of her sons, or such other person, as for the time being should be in essentially wirtue of the limitations in his will, in case Ann Nutt were dead, and from and after her decease, then to the use of her first and other sons successively in tail; provided, that during the time the said John Inship should

should be under the age of twenty-six, and so often and during fuch time as the person who for the time being would, by virtue of the faid will, have been entitled in possession to the devised premises as tenant for life, or tenant in tail, should be under the age of twenty-six years, the trustees and their heirs should and might enter on the premises, and take the rents and profits, and apply them to the following uses; viz. to allow fuch person till the age of fourteen 50 l. per annum, till eighteen 100 l., till twenty-one 300 l., and till twenty-fix 1000 l., and the refidue to be disposed of as the refidue of the testator's personal estate was thereby directed to be disposed of, viz. to be laid out in lands, and fettled as the estate before devised. John Inskip died, leaving his wife enfient with a fon, who while an infant exhibited his bill in Chancery, praying to be let into possession of the estate when he should arrive at the age of twenty-one. Lord Henley directed a case to be sent to the Court of King's Bench for their opinion on this question; Whether Rose Fuller, the heir of the surviving trustee, did, upon the birth of the present plaintiff, take any, and what estate in the devised premises, by virtue of the faid proviso? It was contended, that no estate vested in the trustees, the proviso being void; whether it meant to vest a determinable fee in the trustees, or a mere chattel interest; because, in the first case, it tended to a perpetuity, by taking away the power of alienation five years longer than the policy of the law admitted: in the latter case, it had the same inconvenience, and was in derogation of the legal powers of tenant in tail.

The Court of King's Bench appear to have been of this opinion, for they certified, that Rose Fuller, the heir at law of the surviving trustee in the will of Sir John Lade, did not take any estate in the premises de-vised, by virtue of the proviso in the will of the said testator.

Contradictory.
Devises,
1 Inst. 112 b.
2. 1.

Plow. 451. Owen 84. § 22. Lord Coke says, that where there are two different devises of the same thing, the last shall take place. Mr. Hargrave observes, that there is a great contrariety of opinion on this subject; some hold with Lord Coke, that the second devise revokes the first; others think, that both devises are void, on account of the repugnancy: but the opinion supported by the greatest number of authorities, is, that the two devisees shall take in moieties.

No Averment allowed to explain Wills.

Plowd. 345.

S 23. By the statute of frauds, it is enacted, "That "no will in writing shall be repealed, nor shall any "clause, devise, or bequest therein, be altered or "changed by any words, or will, by word of mouth "only." In consequence of these words, no parol averment can be admitted to explain a will, contrary to the import of the words of such will.

Bertie v. Ld. Faulkland, Salk. 231. \$ 24. Papers and other writings were offered in evidence, to prove what was faid to be the intention of the testator. It was decreed, that they should not insluence the construction of a will in writing; for that would be to make them part of the will itself: and it is expressly required by the statute of frauds and perjuries, that every part of a will shall be in writing;

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. ix. § 24—28.

and, even before that statute, no collateral proof, either by papers or words, was admitted; because a will is a consummate act of itself.

§ 25. The deposition of a person, who prepared a will, was offered to be read to prove the declarations of the testator, at the time he gave the instructions for the will, with respect to his intention of giving his wife the several devises and bequests, mentioned in the will, over and above her jointure. But Lord Chancellor 8Ves. Jun. 22. Bathurst would not suffer such evidence to be read.

Broughton v. Errington, 7 Bro. Park Ca. 461.

§ 26. But, in the case of an ambiguitas latens, an averment supported by parol evidence is admissible, to explain a will; and, therefore, if a testator having two sons of the name of John, devises generally to his son John, there parol evidence will be admitted, to prove which John the testator meant.

Exception where there is a latent Ambiguity. 5 Rep. 68 b. 2 Atk. 372.

§ 27. A person, being seised in see as heir of his mother's mother, devised the land to trustees in fee, in Wms. 135. trust to pay annuities, and the residue to go to the testator's right heirs, of his mother's side, for ever. testator had two heirs of the mother's side; one who was heir of the mother's father, and the other, heir of his mother's mother. Parol evidence was admitted, to prove that the testator, when he made his will, declared that the heir of his mother's mother should have his estate, because it came from thence.

Harris v. Ep. Lincoln, 2 P.

§ 28. Where parol averments are allowed to explain a will, they may be encountered by parol averments.

Jones v. Newman, 1 Ela. R. 60. \$ 29. On a motion for a new trial in ejectment, wherein the lessor of the plaintist was heir at law, and the desendant's title arose upon a will, which devised the premises to John Cluer of Calcot, under whom the desendant claimed; but the plaintist gave evidence that, at the time of making the will, there were two John Cluers, father and son; and that, therefore, the devise was to the father, who died before the testatrix, and so the devise was lapsed. Upon which, the defendant offered to prove by parol evidence, that the testatrix intended to leave it to John Cluer the son; but the judge would not suffer it, and a verdict was found for the plaintist. But, per totam curiam, the judge was mistaken: the objection arose from parol evidence, and ought to be encountered by the same.

Thomas v. Thomas, 6 Term R. 671.

§ 30. George Evans devised to his granddaughter Mary Thomas of Llechlloyd in Merthyr parish, the reversion of a house, the said house to continue in the possession of his wife Elizabeth Evans during her widowhood. At the time of his death, the devisor had a granddaughter of the name of Elenor Evans, who lived at Llechlloyd in Merthyr parish, and a great-grand-daughter Mary Thomas, an infant of two years, being the only person of that name in the samily; but it appeared that she lived at Green Castle in the parish of Llangain, some miles from Merthyr parish, in which latter parish she had never been in her life.

At the trial, the plaintiff's counsel proposed giving parol evidence to shew a mistake in the name of the devisee, that when the will was read over to the devisor

by Phillips the person who drew it, and who was dead, the devisor said that there was a mistake in the name of the woman to whom the house was given; that Phillips then said he would rectify it; but the devisor answered, that there was no occasion, as the place of abode and the parish would be sufficient. To this evidence, the defendant's counsel objected, contending, that there was not that ambiguitas latens which authorized the receiving of parol evidence. That if the doubt had arisen from there being two persons of the name of Mary Thomas, parol evidence might be admitted to explain which of them was meant; but, here, the inaccuracy of the description was not such as to raise a sufficient. degree of doubt to let in the parol evidence, for granddaughter would properly enough signify great-granddaughter, and the mistake of the residence was only in a matter of description which was perpetually varying, and could not raise any doubt where a name not applicable to any other than the defendant was used, which was a circumstance of the greatest weight in these cases. Mr. Justice Lawrence received the evidence, subject to the opinion of the court on its admissibility, in case the jury should be of opinion that the name Mary Thomas had by mistake been inserted instead of Elinor Evans. But the jury being of opinion, that there was no fuch mistake, they found for the defendant Mary Thomas, and, consequently, any farther consideration of this point became unnecessary. The defendant's counsel then offered evidence of declarations made by the devisor at other times previous to the making of his will, expressive of his regard for his great-grand-daughter the defendant, and of his intention of giving her the house in question. This evidence was rejected by the judge, who thought that nothing dehors the will could be received to shew the intention of the devisor, which could only be collected from the words of the will itself, after the removal of any latent ambiguity there might be in the description of persons, or other terms made use of in the will. And the jury found for the heir at law, on the ground that the will was void for uncertainty.

Upon a question, whether a new trial should be granted, Lord Kenyon said, "Although great pains " have been taken by the counsel on both sides, to in-" vestigate the points in this cause, it seems to be a " case of no difficulty. It must be admitted, that the "heirs at law are not to be disinherited by conjecture, "but only by express words or necessary implication. When the rule for a new trial was moved for, I al-" luded to the maxim that falsa demonstratio non nocet, " but, in doing so, I wished that the sense of that rule so should be attended to: I have always understood, " that fuch falsa demonstratio should be superadded to "that, which was sufficiently certain before: there " must be constat de persona, and, if to that an inapt description be added, though false, it will not avoid "the devise. And this gets rid of almost all the ob-66 servations and arguments made by the defendant's counsel; for, in the case cited, there was no other " person in competition with the person claiming. It has been a long established rule, that where there is a latent ambiguity in a will, the parties may go into extrinsic evidence to render that certain, which, " without

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. ix. § 30.

without the aid of such evidence, is uncertain. But "here, the evidence given, has itself raised the ambi-" guity. On the face of the will there is no uncer-" tainty; one person, namely, E. Evans, is named, " who is the grand-daughter of the devisor, and of 66 Llechlloyd in Merthyr parish. Two of the descrip-"tions, therefore, in the contested devise, apply to "her; but, instead of her name, (it was said), that of Mary Thomas was inserted; it turns out, that 66 Mary Thomas is not the grand-daughter, but the er great-grand-daughter of the devisor, and that she does not live at Llechlloyd in Merthyr parish, the " place mentioned in this clause. Then do we arrive at any certainty respecting the person of the devisee? " If we do, it must decide the case; but if the parol " evidence has introduced uncertainty respecting the " devisee, then the heirs at law must take. In addition to the cases that were cited, another in P. Wil- Beaumont v. 66 liams might have been referred to, where the name of the legatee was mistaken: the testator gave a 66 legacy to Catherine; it turned out, that there was " a person whom he frequently called Gatty, and not " according to her real name, which was Gertrude; " and, when parol evidence of that was received, it " left no doubt but that the testator meant Gatty. here it was proper to let in the parol evidence to remove the latent ambiguity; but, when received, it " leaves the question in uncertainty. If there had been no person answering the description of grand-66 daughter, living at Llechlloyd in Merthyr parish, I " should have rejected the description, and have said, that the devise applied to Mary Thomas: but it apee pears,

Fell, 2 P.

pears, that there is another person answering that part of the description, who is also an object of the testator's bounty. Then, as there are two parts of the description not answering to Mary Thomas, who is named in this clause in the will, we are left to conjecture who was meant by the devisor: but the law will not allow an heir at law to be disinherited by conjecture.

"With regard to the other question respecting the rejection of evidence, it seems that the learned judge did right in rejecting it, the supposed declarations having been made by the testator long before the will was made; though, had they been made at the time of making the will, I should have thought them admissible in evidence."

Asburst Justice.— "The heirs at law must recover possession of this estate, unless some other person be clearly and unequivocally entitled to take under the will. I cannot form any satisfactory opinion respecting the person, who the devisor intended should take under the devise in question, and, therefore, the title of the heirs at law must prevail."

Grose Justice.— "The heirs at law cannot be disinherited, unless we find some person named in the
will that the devisor intended clearly should take:
then, can we clearly discover whom the devisor meant
in the clause in question? He had no grand-daughter, but he had a great-grand-daughter, of the name
of Mary Thomas; and though, under certain circumstances,

cumstances, a great-grand-daughter may take under " the description of grand-daughter, if there be no "doubt about the person intended, yet here the granddaughter is described as living at Llechlloyd in Mer-" thyr parish: this raises a considerable doubt respecting the person intended; and when it appears by the " evidence given, that the devisor had a grand-daugh-" ter living in that parish, but no great-grand-daugh-" ter, it renders it still more doubtful, whether he " meant to give the house to Mary Thomas the grand-"daughter. Then, we are left to conjecture who was " meant in this clause, there being no person answer-" ing to the descriptions; but, it being uncertain, the " heirs at law are entitled to take the advantage. As " to the rejection of the evidence offered, the question " was, what the devisor intended at the time of mak-" ing his will, not what he had intended; and, as the " evidence tendered would only have proved that he " had had fuch intention, I think it was properly " rejected."

Lawrence Justice.— "I received parol evidence for one purpose, and rejected it for another, on this ground: I thought that I could not receive parol evidence of declarations of the testator, relative to his intention, made before the will, but that parol evidence might be received to remove a latent ambiguity, not appearing on the face of the will, or to clear up a mistake of a name in the will. As the description in the clause in question answered to E. Evans, and as it was stated that the devisor, at the time of making his will, said, that he meant that

" E. Evens should take under it, I permitted the counse sel for the plaintiffs to go into parol evidence, to see whether or not the name of Mary Thomas were by " mistake inserted for that of E. Evans: and, in so doing, I found myself warranted by former decisions, 66 8 Vin. Ab. 312. pl. 29. and 2 Ves. 216. With rese gard to the evidence which was rejected, I thought "that a will could not be construed by any declararations, made by the testator before the making of "the will, but that his intention must be collected " from the words of the will, or from what passed at the time of making it. There is no doubt, but that e parol evidence to remove the latent ambiguity in the will was properly received; but, when it was received, it became extremely, doubtful who was intended " to take. I perfectly agree in the opinion given by my "Lord Chief Justice on this point: if the parol evidence had clearly shewn who was intended to take, "that person would have been entitled to our judgment; but if the parol evidence does not remove, but raises, the doubt, then the title of the heirs at " law must prevail. In many cases, the description of the devisee is of importance: suppose a devise of a house to A. by name, on condition that he keep up " the house, &c. and it turned out, that A. was of " too tender age to keep house, the person so named " could not take, because it is evident from the de-" scription, that the devisor did not mean that person 66 fo named. The cases cited only apply to a case, where there is only one person respecting whom the ambiguity arises; if that had been the case here, if there had been no person answering the description " in

- in this clause, Mary Thomas, who is named, might
- 66 have taken, and the description might have been
- " rejected: but here the description, both as to the
- " degree of relationship, and as to the place of resi-
- " dence, does apply to another person; therefore, it
- is uncertain whom the devisor meant, and, conse-
- " quently, the heirs at law must take."

TITLE XXXVIIL

DEVISE.

CHAP. X.

Construction.—What Words create a Devise, and describe the Devisees, and the Things devised.

- § 2. What Words create a Devise.
 - 6. Words of Advice or Defire.
- 17. Devises by Implication
- 24. What Words necessary to describe the Devisces.
- 29. The Word Heir is sometimes a good Description.
- 33. Issue is a good Description.
- 36. And also Son's, Children, &c.
- 39. What Words' necessary to describe the Things devised.
- 47. Lands, Tenements, and Hereitaments.
- 51. Estate.
- 58. All my Rents.
- 60. Meffuage and House.

- 64. All I am worth.
- 66 Legacy.
- 67. Remainder and Residue of all my Effetts.
- 71. Where general Words are net restrained.
- 74. General Words confined to Freebolds.
- 88. What Words necessary to pass Copybolds.
- 93. What Words necessary to pass
 Reversions.
- 108. What Words pass Mortgages and Lands held in Trust for others.

Section 1.

HAVING stated the general rules by which wills are construed; it will now be necessary to enquire, 1st, What words are necessary to create a devise; 2d, What words are necessary to describe the devisees; 3d, What words are necessary to describe the property intended to be deivised: and, 4th, What words are necessary to denote the quantity and nature of the estate intended to be devised.

§ 2. With respect to the words necessary to create What Words a devise of lands, the proper and technical words are, Devise. give and devise, but any other words which sufficiently shew the Intention of the testator to give all or any part of his estate, will be sufficient for that purpose.

§ 3. A person having conveyed his estate to scoffees to his own use, before the statute of uses, made his will after that statute, and also after the statute of wills by which he willed that his feoffees should make an estate to W. N. and the heirs of his body. This was adjudged to be a good devise of an estate tail to W. N. the intention being clear.

Bro. Ab. Tit, Devile, pl. 48,

§ 4. A. seised of lands in see, having issue two sons Hodgkinson B. and C. made his will, by which he devised several lands to B. his eldest son; and directed that B. should renounce all his right in Blackacre, of which the devisor was then seised, to C. This was adjudged to amount to a devise to C. in fee.

v. Star, cited 1 Ld. Raym.

§ 5. a mere recital in a will does not operate as a devise. And therefore in a case where a person being tenant for life, remainder to his wife for life, remainder to his own right heirs, made his will, in which he faid-" My lands, by Woolwich, my wife " is to enjoy for her life, after her death of right " it goeth to my daughter Elizabeth for ever, provided she hath heirs."-It was determined that nothing was devised to Elizabeth the daughter, for the will did not give her any estate, but only recited the estate she had before,

Right v. Hammond, 1 Com. R.

§ 6. Words

Words of Advice or Defire.

§ 6. Words of advice, recommendation, or defire, will not create an actual devise. Nor will they even operate so as to raise a trust in equity, unless the property is certain, and the persons to whom it is given clearly described; and even in that case such words are not in general deemed imperative or legatary, where they are inconsistent with the antecedent right or interest, devised to that person to whom they are addressed; for in such cases the subject matter of the recommendation having been once absolutely devised away, it cannot be presumed that the testator intended to use his subsequent words of recommendation in a legatary sense, which would be to construe his will as inconsistent with itself, in one and the same sentence.

Anon 8 Vin.
Ab. 71. pl.:25.
S. P. Palmer
v. Schribb,
Vin. Ab.
288.

§ 7. A person gave all his estate to his wife, and then said, "I desire and request my said wife to give "all her estate, which she shall have at the time of her death, to her and my nearest relations, equally "among them."

Lord Harcourt said, the words of the will being so very general, both with respect to the money, and the persons to take it, it did not amount to a devise, but was only a recommendation to the wise, to make such a disposition. But, if he had desired that she should have given it to a particular person, it would have been a good devise, and a trust.

Cunliffe v. Cunliffe, Prec. in Cha. 201. § 8. Sir E. Cunliffe devised certain sugar-houses, and stock in trade, unto his son Sir E. Cunliffe the plaintiff's

plaintiff's brother; nevertheless, in case Sir E. should die without a son, he recommended it to him to give and devise the said premises unto the said plaintiff. It was held by the Lords Commissioners Aston and Smithe, that the word recommend was not sufficient to raise a trust in favour of the plaintiff.

§ 9. A testatrix gave her fortune to A.; and, if he should die without issue, she recommended it to him to do justice to B. and her children, if he should think them worthy of it; but, if any unforeseen accident should make the whole or any part acceptable or serviceable to him, he might dispose of it, if he should think sit.

Le Maitre v. Bannister, Prec. in Cha. 201 n.

It was held to be no trust.

§ 10. Lady Bland devised to her son, Sir John Bland, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, all her manor of Withington, and other real and perfonal estate whatsoever; adding the following clause— "And it is my earnest request to my son, in case of " failure of issue of his body, that my son would in " his lifetime settle the said estate, or so much thereof as he should stand seised of at his death, that the " same may come to and be enjoyed by my daughter, " and the heirs of her body," and in failure of iffue with divers remainders over; and made her fon executor. It was held by Lord Hardwicke to be no trust, inasmuch as the words, "so much as he should stand " seised of," gave him the absolute ownership; and the other expression amounted to nothing more than Vol. VI. words

Bland v.
Bland,
Prec. in Cha.
201 n.

words of recommendation, leaving it to the discretions of the party whether he would comply with her request or not.

Harland v. Trigg, 1 Bro. R.142. S 11. Richard Harland, being seised in see of the manor of Sutton, devised it to his eldest son Philips for life, with remainder to his first and other sons in tail male.

Philip entered upon the estate thus devised to him; and, being himself also possessed of leasehold estates in Sutton, some for lives and others for years, by his will gave his leasehold estate for lives to the trustees of his father's will, to the same uses, to which the lands devised by the father's will were limited, so far as by law he could; and then sollowed this clause—
"And all my other leasehold estates, in the parish or township of Sutton, I give to my brother John "Harland for ever, hoping he will continue them in "the family."

Lord Thurlow was of opinion, that the will in this instance did not import a devise, as the words did not clearly demonstrate an object.

Wynne v. Hawkine, 1 Bro. R. 179.

- § 12. The words, "not doubting but that she (the "devise) will dispose of what shall be left at her death to our two grandchildren" were decreed not to amount to a devise.
- § 13. Notwithstanding the authority of the preceding determinations, there are some cases, in which words

words of desire or request have been held to be imperative and legatary, and consequently to create a trust, where the property was certain, and the objects of the testator's bounty clearly pointed out.

§ 14. Nicholas Harding gave by his will to Elizabeth Harding v. his wife all his estate, leases, and interest, in his house &c. "but did desire her at or before her death to give " fuch leases, houses, &c. unto and amongst such of " his own relations, as she should think most deserv-" ing and approve of," and made her his executrix. The wife survived, but died intestate. It was decreed, that, as the word "relations," was a legal description, this was a devise to such relations, and operated as a trust in the wife by way of power of naming and apportioning; and her non-performance of the power did not make the devise void, but the power devolved on the court.

It was therefore decreed, that the property devised (being personal) should be divided according to the statute of limitations.

Nowlan v. Neiligan, 1 Bro. Rep. 489.

S 15. Edward Wortley devised his collieries and Butev. Stuart, coal mines to trustees, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, upon trust to convey and dispose of the same in such manner as his daughter, whether fole or covert, should direct or appoint, by any writing or writings under her hand and seal, in the presence ef three witnesses. And in a subsequent part of the will the testator declared, that although his meaning was to give his said daughter the absolute disposal

of the faid collieries, to prevent the expenses and trouble that must attend the management of affairs of such a nature under the direction of the Court of Chancery, he requested his said daughter to direct the money arising therefrom to be applied in such manner as he had directed the same, in default of her direction and appointment.

A question having arisen on the construction of this will, whether Lady Bute had an absolute power of disposing of the collieries, Lord Henley declared that the testator did not intend to empower Lady Bute to direct the trustees to dispose of the premises for her absolute benefit, or without consideration; but that he intended only to give her a power to have the same fold, and that the money arising therefrom should be applied to the purchase of lands, in the same manner as the clear profits of the premises in case she had made no appointment. And decreed accordingly, which was affirmed by the House of Lords.

Pierson v. Garnet, 2 Bro. Rep. / 38. 226. § 16. John Garnet, Bishop of Clogber, devised the residue of his personal estate to P. Pierson, his executors, administrators and assigns, adding these words, "And it is my dying request to the said P. Pierson, state if he shall die without leaving issue living at his death, that the said P. Pierson do dispose of what fortune he shall receive under this my will, to and among the descendants of my late aunt Ann "Coppinger, his grandmother, in such manner and proportions as he shall think proper."

It was decreed by the Master of the Rolls, and affirmed by Lord Thurlow, that these words were imperative, and created a trust in favour of the descendants of Ann Coppinger.

§ 17. The courts have in some instances allowed of Devises by a devise by implication, where it has been very apparent, in order to support and effectuate the intention of the testator; but in cases of this kind, the implication must be a necessary, and not merely a possible, or probable one; for the title of the heir at law being plain and obvious, no words in a will ought to be construed in such a manner as to defeat it, if they can have any other fignification.

Implication.

§ 18. The first case in which a devise by implication was allowed, arose in 13 Hen. 7. A man devised his goods to his wife, and that after the decease of his wife, his fon and heir should have a certain house. It was determined that this was a good devise of the house to the wife, for life, by implication; for by the express words of the will, the heir was not to take it till after the death of the wife, and therefore if she did not take it, no one else could.

Bro. Ab. Devise, pl. 52. Cro. Ja. 75.

§ 19. A. having a wife and two daughters his heirs at law, devised lands to one of his daughters after the death of his wife. Decreed that, although the daughter was but one of the heirs at law, yet that the wife should take an estate for life by implication.

Hutton v. Simplon, 2 Vern. 723. Willis v. Lucas r P. Was. 473.

182

Cro. Eliz. 15.

§ 20. It was also formerly held, that a devise to a stranger, after the death of the devisor's wife, would give the wife an estate for life, by implication. But this determination has been repeatedly contradicted; because in this case two implications arise, the one, that the testator meant the lands should go to his wife, the other, that they should descend to his heir; and, therefore the implication in favour of the wife being only a possible, and not a necessary one, the title of the heir must prevail.

Smartle v. Scholar, 2 Lev. 207. 2 Jon. 98. § 21. A person devised to A. and his heirs, after the death of the devisor and his wife. It was determined that A. who was a feranger, should take nothing, until the death of the wife; and that, in the mean time, the lands should descend to the heir at law.

Fawikener v. Fawikener, 1 Vern. 22. § 22. A copyholder devised underwoods to J. S. for twenty years, after the death of his wife, to raise portions for his younger children; and the question was, whether the wife took an estate for life, by implication, under this devise. Lord Nottingham said, that where such a devise is made to the heir, there indeed an estate shall arise to the wife by implication; but, where it is devised to a stranger, as in this case, there in the mean time it shall descend to the heir.

Gardner v. Sheldon, Vaugh. 259. 1 Ab.Eq. 197. § 23. A person having issue a son, who was his heir apparent, and two daughters, devised in these words.—" If it happens my son B. and my two daughters to die without issue of their bodies law-

" fully

se fully begotten, then all my lands shall be and " remain to my nephew D. and his heirs." It was held, 1st, That no express estate was by this will given to his children. 2d, That they did not take any estate by implication, because then it must either be a joint estate for life, with several inheritances in tail, or several estates tail in succession, one after another. The last it could not be, because it would be uncertain who should take first, who next, &c. and the first it could not be, because the heir at law shall not be disinherited, without a necessary implication, which in this case there was not, for it was only a designation and appointment of the time when the land should come to the nephew; and therefore the lands descended to the heir at law.

§ 24. With respect to the words which are necessary in a will to describe the devisees, any words which are sufficient to point out the persons meant by the testator, and to distinguish them from all others, will be sufficient.

What Words necessary to describe the Devisces.

§ 25. A devise was to Margaret, the daughter of Gynes v. W. K. The daughter's name was Margery. The question was, whether Margery should take. that she should, quia constat de personâ.

5 26. A person devised an estate to William Pitcairne, eldest son of Charles Pitcairne of Twickenham. Charles Pitcairne had an eldest son; but his name was It was decreed to be a good devise.

Pitcairne v. Brase, Finch, 403.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. x. § 27-29.

Bate v. Amherst, T. Raym. 82. § 27. A person devised all his lands in Kent and Sussex to one of his cousin Nicholas Amberst's daughters, that should marry with a Norton, within sisteen years. Nicholas Amberst had three daughters, one of whom married with a Norton within the sisteen years. This was adjudged a good devise to her, notwithstanding the uncertainty; and that the law would supply the words, "who shall first marry."

River's Cale. 1 Atk. 410.

§ 28. A person devised an equal share of his estate to his two sons James and Charles Rivers. Lord Hardwicke. - First question: "Whether, as it appeared that "James and Charles were two illegitimate children, this was such a description of their persons, as would entitle them to take under the will?" In the case of a devise, any thing that amounts to a designatio persona was sufficient; and, though in strictness they were not his sons, yet if they had acquired that name by reputation, in common parlance, they were to be considered as such. It has been said, the testator has made a mistake in their names, and therefore they cannot take, but the law is otherwise; for, if a man is mistaken in a devise, yet if a person is clearly made out, by averment, to be the person meant; and there can be no other, to whom it may be applied, the devise to him is good,

The Word
Heir is sometimes a good
Description,
Tit. 16. c. 1.
s. 30.
Fearne Cont.
Rem. 319.

§ 29. In consequence of the rule of law, that nemo est bæres viventis, an immediate devise to the heirs of a person who was living, would be void. But a limitation in a will to the heir special of a person living, has been adjudged good, where the limitation

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. x. § 30, 31.

has been qualified by the words, now living, or some other circumstances have appeared in the will, to manifest the testator's intention that the estate should vest.

- 30. Thus where a person devised to a trustee and Burchett & his heirs, in trust to permit Robert Durdant to receive 2 Vent. 311. the rents during his life, and after his decease to the heirs male of the body of the faid Robert Durdant, then living. It was adjudged that this was a vested remainder in the only son of Robert Durdant; the words heirs male of the body then living, being a fufficient designation of such only son, and as much as if it had been to his heir apparent.
 - Durdant.

§ 31. A person devised the remainder of all his Darbison v. estate to the heirs male of his aunt Elizabeth Long lawfully begotten, and for default of fuch iffue, the reversion to his own right heirs. And gave a legacy of 100 l. to the said Elizabeth Long. At the death of the testator Elizabeth Long was living, and the question was, whether her eldest son could take under this devise, and it was adjudged by the Court of Exchequer that he should take. Upon a writ of error in the Exchequer Chamber before the Chief Justices Parker and Trever this judgement was reversed. But upon a writ of error in the House of Lords the judgement of the Court of Exchequer was affirmed, upon the principle that the word heir had several significations. strictest sense it signified one who succeeded to a dead ancestor, but it also signified in a more general sense an heir apparent, which supposed the ancestor to be living,

Beaumont, a Bro. Parl. Ca. 60. 1P.Wms.229. living, and in this latter sense the word heir was frequently used in statutes, law books, and records. As, therefore, the law gave several senses to this word, it would be hard, in the present case, to expound it in the most strict and rigorous sense, which would destroy great part of the will, when by law it might have another sense, which would support the whole will, and the manifest design of the party.

Goodright v. White, 2 Black. R. 1010.

§ 32. A person devised to his son Richard Brooking his heirs male, and to the heirs of his daughter Margaret White, jointly and equally, to hold to the heirs male of Richard lawfully begotten, and to the heirs of Margaret, jointly and equally, and their heirs and assigns for ever. It was resolved, that this was a sufficient designation of the person to make the son of Margaret take as her heir, living the mother.

Doe v. Ironmonger, 3 East. R. 533.

Issue is a good Description. § 33. The word issue is a sufficient designatio personæ, or description of a devisee in a will; and, therefore, a devise to the issue of A. will be sufficient to pass the estate to all the children and grandchildren of A.

Cook v.Cook,
Vern. 545.

\$ 34. A devise was made to the issue of J. S. who then had a daughter living, and afterwards had a son born. The question was, who should take; Lord Cowper said, that all the children should take, and even grandchildren, if there had been any; and, although the devise was to the issue begotten, that made no difference, the words begotten, and to be begotten, were the same, as well upon the construction of wills as settlements, and take in all the issue after begotten.

And₂

And, although upon the death of the testator, there was then only a daughter born, yet, upon the birth of another child, the estate should open, and take in an after-born son.

\$ 35. In the case of Loddington v. Kime, a devise to the issue male of Evers Armyn and his heirs for ever, was held to be a good description of the person, and a word of purchase.

Tit. 16. c. 1. f. 45. 1 Ld. Raym. 205.

§ 36. The words sons, children, descendants, relations, next of kin, nearest of blood, are sufficient to describe the devisees in a will; provided they can be applied with certainty to persons answering such descriptions.

And also Sons, Children, &c. Cro. Eliz. 532—576.

§ 37. A person devised her real estate to her daughter, with a proviso, that if she died before 21 or marriage, then to her nearest relations of the name of Pyot, and to his or her heirs for ever. The daughter died under 21, and unmarried. At the death of the testatrix, there were three persons of the name of Pyot, viz. a man and his two sisters, then unmarried, and another sister originally of the name, but married when the will was made. At the time of the contingency's happening, there was another person, who was heir at law to the testatrix, and of the name of Pyot, but more remote in degree than the others. Lord Hardwicke decreed that the man and his two sisters, and their married sister, being the nearest relations of the name of Pyot, should take under this devise.

Pyot v. Pyot, 2 Vel. 335.

Marsh v. Marsh, 1 Bro. R. 293. Crossly v. Clare, Amb. R. 397.

for life, and, after their death, to the descendants of Francis Ince then living, in and about Sevenoaks in Kent. Sir T. Clarke M. R. said, that a devise to descendants at large had been good; here the devisor added a description of such as he intended should take, which was sufficiently precise and certain. It would be unjust to confine it to the heirs at law, because the words descendants mean all those who proceeded from his body, and, therefore, the grandchildren of Francis Ince were entitled; but a great-grandchild, being born after the will made, was excluded by the words then living.

What Words necessary to describe the Things devised. § 39. With respect to the words that are necessary to describe the property intended to be devised, as a will is always construed in the most favourable manner for the benefit of the devisees, the same accuracy is not required in the description of those things which are intended to be devised, as is necessary in a deed; it being sufficient if the words denote, with sufficient certainty, what is meant to be given.

Chamberlaine v. Turner, Cro.Car. 129. § 40. A person being seised in see of 2 house called the White Swan in Old Street, devised it in these words:— "I devise the house or tenement "wherein William Nichols dwelleth, called the White "Swan, in Old Street, to Henry Gallant my daughter's fon for ever." And the jury sound, that the said William Nichols, at the time when the will was made, and when the testator died, occupied the alley of the said house and three upper rooms, and that divers

divers other persons at the same time held and occupied the garden and other places in the said house. The question was, whether all the house passed, or only the entry and the three rooms which were in the possession of William Nichols.

The Chief Justice (Hyde) doubted thereof, but Jones, Whitlock, and Croke, were of opinion, that all the house passed to the devisee, for the devise being " that house " or tenement," and the conclusion, " called the White Swan," did both of them necessarily import the whole house. For the sign of the White Swan could not be intended to refer to the three rooms; and the words after, viz. " wherein William Nichols dwelleth," did not abridge or alter that devise; and the house being named by the particular name of the White Swan. although William Nichols never inhabited therein, but only occupied three rooms, passed by the devise. If the house had not been described by the particular name of the White Swan, and the testator had devised the house in the occupation of William Nichols, there peradventure it should not extend to more than what was in the occupation of William Nichols.

\$ 41. The courts have even gone so far as to determine, that where the words used by a testator are only applicable in their strict technical sense to a species of property which the testator has not, they shall be applied to some other species of property which the testator has, in order to essect this intention. For, in cases of this kind, it is clear the testator has been ignorant of the technical meaning of the words which

he has used, but as he must have had some intention when he used them, the courts, in order to give effect to that intention, will apply such words to the property, to which the testator appears to have intended to apply them.

Inchly v. Robinson, 3 Leon. 165. § 42. A person being seised of a fee-farm rent issuing out of the manor of F, and of no land whatever, devised his manor of F, to \mathcal{F} . S. It was held, that these words passed the see farm rent; for the devisor, being seised of that rent, and of nothing else in the manor, it was plain he meant the rent, and could mean nothing else; so that, otherwise, the will must have been entirely void.

Day v Trig, 1 P.Wm.286. \$ 43. A person devised all his freehold houses in Aldersgate Street to the plaintiff and his heirs. The testator had no freehold houses there, but had lease-hold houses. It was decreed by Mr. Justice Tracy, that though in a grant of all one's freehold houses, leasehold houses could not pass, and that, in the case of a will, had there been any freehold houses to satisfy the will, the leasehold houses should not have passed, yet the plain intention of the testator being to pass some houses, and he having no freehold houses there, the word freehold should rather be rejected than the will be wholly void, and the leasehold should pass.

\$ 44. A mistake in the description of the place where the lands devised are situated, will not, for the same reason, be allowed to invalidate a devise.

§ 45. A testator devised all the profits of his houses Pacy v. and lands lying in the parish of Billing, and in a street there called Brooks Street, to his wife for life, when, in truth, there was no fuch parish as Billing, but the land supposed to be devised was in Billing Street. All the court held the will to be good.

Brownl. 131.

§ 46. A person made his will in these words; I devise to J. S. all those my lands in Bramstead in the county of Surry, in the possession of John Ashley, whereas, in fact, the testator had not any lands in Surry, but he had lands at Bramstead in Hampshire, in the possession of John Ashley. In an ejectment brought for these lands in Hampshire, by the heir of the testator against the devisee, it was ruled by Lord Holt, that they passed by the devise.

Hastead v. Serle, 1 Ld Raym. 728.

§ 47. The words, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, will pass every species of real property. in a modern case, it was determined, that money directed to be laid out in lands, would pass by the words lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, and wherefoever.

Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments. Rashley v. Mater, 3 Bro. R. 99.

§ 48. The words, all my lands, are sufficient to pass a house. If, however, it appears not to have been the 477. intention of a testator to give a house by the words, all my lands, they will not have that effect:

§ 49. A person being seised of a house in Dale, and of three houses and certain lands in Sale, devised his house in Dale, and all his lands in Sale, to B. It was resolved.

Ewer v. Hayden, Cro. Eliz. 476. .

resolved, that the houses in Sale did not pass, on account of the express mention of the house in Dale; for expressum facit cessare tacitum; and, if the testator had intended to devise the houses in Sale, he would have mentioned them, as well as he did the house in Dale.

Woodden v. Osborn, Cro. Eliz. 674.

§ 50. One Biftop being seised of divers lands called Hayes Lands, which extended into two vills, Cokefield and Cranfield, devised all his lands in Cokefield called Hayes Lands, to his youngest son and his heirs: and, in another part of his will, he devised, that if his youngest son died without issue, his wife should have Hayes Lands. The question was, whether the wife should have Hayes Lands in Cranfield, or only in Cokefield? And it was resolved by the whole court, that she should have that only which was in Cokefield, because there was no more devised to the youngest son. But Popham said, if the devise had been to the eldest fon, and that, if he died without issue, his wife should have Hayes Lands, there, peradventure, she should have all, because the eldest son had all, the one part by devise, the other part by descent, and she should have all which he had.

Estate.

§ 51. The word estate will pass every kind of property, unless restrained by other words.

Bridgewater v. Boulton, Salk. 236. § 52. The Earl of Bridgewater by his will, gave part of his personal estate to his son-in-law, and then added these words; and all other my estate real and personal. The question was, whether see farm rents passed by this devise? Lord Holt delivered the opinion

of the court, that the rents passed by the words, all my real and personal estate, for the word estate was genus generalissimum, and included all things real and personal.

§ 53. A person devised all the rest and residue of his Roe v. Harestate whatsoever and wheresoever to his wife. It was contended, that the word estate did not necessarily mean real estate; but Lord Mansfield answered, that the word estate carried every thing, unless tied down by particular expressions.

vey, 5 Bur. R.

§ 54. A person devised all the rest and residue of Doe v. Chapher estate, of what nature or kind soever. It was contended, that these words only applied to the personal property of the testator, because it was accompanied with limitations peculiar to personal property; but the court said, they could not restrain the meaning of those words to personal property, and negative the operation of them, as to real estates.

man, LH. Black R.

- § 55. Where the word estate is confined to perfonals only, it will not be construed to extend to real property.
- § 56. Thus, where a man having settled all his estate of inheritance upon his wife for life, for her jointure, made his will, and thereby devised several pecuniary legacies, and then said, all the rest and residue of my estate, chattels real and personal, I give and devise to my wife. And the question was, whether, by this devise, the reversion of the jointure lands passed Vol. VI. to

Markant v. Twisden, 1Ab Eq. 211. to the wife? The Lord Keeper decreed it did not, because the precedent and subsequent words explained his intent to carry only his personal estate; for, in the first part of the will, having given only legacics, and no land, the words, all the rest and residue of his estate were relative, and must be intended estate of the same nature with that he had before devised, which was only personal; for, having before given no real estate, there could be no rest or residue of that out of which he had given away none. Then the words chattel real and personal explained the word estate, and shewed what fort of estate he meant, and made the devise as if he had said, all the rest of my estate, whether chattels real or personal, &c. and so confined and restrained the extended sense of the word estate.

Timewell v. Perkins, 2 Atk. 102.

§ 57. A testator devised as follows; "All those my freehold lands and hop grounds, with the messuages or tenements, barns, &c. in the tenure of L. and all other the rest, residue, and remainder of his estate, consisting in money, plate, jewels, cases, judgments, mortgages, &c. or in any other thing whates soever or wheresoever, I give to A.B. and her assigns for ever." Justice Fortescue, at the Rolls, held, that the residue of the testator's real estate did not pass by this devise; for, although the word estate, when unrestrained, would include lands, as well as personal estate, yet here it was expressly confined to personals, as plate, &c.; and, had the testator intended to give all his real estate, why did he mention a part of it only.

§ 58. The words, all my rents, are sufficient to pass All my Rents. real estates, for it is according to the common phrase, and usual manner of speaking of some men, who name, their lands by their rents.

§ 59. A special verdict was found, that a man let Kerry v. feveral houses and lands, by leases for years, rendering feveral rents, and afterwards made his will in these words; as concerning the disposition of all my lands. and tenements, I bequeath the rents of D. to my wife for life, remainder over in tail. The question was, whether, by this devise, the reversions passed with the rents of the lands? for it was contended, that the rent divided from the reversion was not devisable within the statute, the devisor having no reversion therein. But the court resolved, that the land itself passed by the devise; for it appeared to be the intention of the testator to make a devise of all his lands and tenements, and that he intended to pass such an estate as should have continuance for a longer time than the leafes should enure; and the words were apt enough to convey it, according to the common phrase, and usual manner of fome men, who name their land by their rents.

§ 60. A devise of a messuage will carry with it the cuttilage and garden annexed to it, even without the word appurtenances, for they are part of the meffuage.

Meffuage and House. Carden v. Tuck, Cro. Eliz. 89.

§ 61. It was formerly held, that the word house did 2 Ch. Ca. 27. not, in a will, carry the garden or curtilage, belonging

to such house, without the word appurtenances; but this doctring is now somewhat altered.

Doe v. Collins, 2 Term R. 498. § 62. A. being tenant for years of a house, garden, stables, and coal-pen, occupied by him, devised in the following words; "I give the house I live in, and "garden, to B." It was determined, that the stables and coal-pen passed, they not being specifically given in the subsequent part of the will, though the testator used them for the purpose of trade, as well as for the convenience of his house.

Buck v. Nurton, 1 Bof. & Pul. 53. S 63. In a subsequent case, it was determined by the Court of Common Pleas, that lands usually occupied with a house did not pass under a devise of a messuage, with the appurtenances, it not appearing that the testator meant to extend the word appurtenances beyond its technical sense.

All I am worth.

5 64. The words, "all I am worth," without any other words to control them, will pass real as well as personal estate.

Huxlop v.
Brooman,
1 Bro. R.437.

§ 65. A testator having given all the overplus of his money to the son and daughter of J. S. proceeded in these words; "I give and bequeath to them all I am worth, except 20 l., which I give to my executor." It was contended, that there being no expression in the will which pointed at the real estate, the personalty could only pass. But it was decreed, that these words carried both the real and personal estate.

§ 66. The word legacy may be applied to a real estate, if the context of the will shew that such was the testator's intention.

Legacy. Hardacre v. Nash, 5 Term Rep. 716. 1 Bur. 268.

§ 67. The words, all the remainder and residue of Remainder all my effects, both real and personal, which I shall die possessed of, were held to pass freehold estates, as well as chattels real.

and Refidue of all my Effect &

§ 68. George Jackson being seised of several real Jackson v. estates, descendible freeholds, and chattels real, gave Parl Ca. 388. to his mother Mary Jackson some particular estates for life, without liberty of committing waste; he afterwards gave several legacies, and an annuity of 30 l. to his heir at law, and then proceeded thus; " I also " give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved mother, " Mary Jackson, all the remainder and residue of all * the effects, both real and personal, which I shall die

Hogan, 3 Bro.

The question was, whether this last clause passed all the testator's estates to his mother in fee-simple?

" possessed of."

The Court of King's Bench in Ireland gave judgment in favour of the heir at law; but this judgment having been reversed by the Court of King's Bench in England, in Trinity term 1775, a writ of error was brought in the House of Lords.

It was contended on behalf of the appellant,

1st, That it was an established rule, that an heir at law should not be disinherited, but by express words, or necessary implication: the residuary clause, in this case, contained no express devise of the real estates; the word " effects" being properly applicable only to personal estate. The subsequent words, " which I shall " die possessed of," supported and strengthened this construction; because the express allusion of those words to a future acquisition was inapplicable to real estates, as none, acquired after the publication of the will, could. pass by it; and the word "possessed" properly relates; only to personal estate. And as to the word "real," annexed to the word "effects," it applied expressly to the chattels real left by the testator; nor was there any nocessary implication, that any greater interest in the real estates was intended for the mother, than the estate for life, without power of waste, expressly devised to her, in two of the denominations. Such an implication, fo far from being necessary, was incompatible with; and would merge and destroy, and, in fact, revoke, the mother's express estate for life, and restriction from waste; and would break through another rule, as well of law, as of common sense, which says, that what is expressed, shall not be destroyed by implication.

2d, Another rule of construction was, that where words, used by a testator, are indifferently applied to real and personal estates, they shall not, if there be any thing to satisfy them, receive a construction prejudicial to the heir. Now, in the present case, the words "bequeath," "effects," and "possessed of," were indisputably

indisputably much less applicable to real, than to perfonal estate; they have never been admitted to apply to the former, but where insurmountable arguments of such an intent, afforded by other parts of the will, rendered that construction necessary; but here, the other parts of the will were so far from requiring such a construction, that they were destroyed, if it were admitted. The words, in their most proper sense, apply, to personal estate; and the chattels real, which the testator lest, shewed his reason for annexing the word "real" to "effects;" which, otherwise, properly means moveables only, and fully satisfied those words: they could not, therefore, be extended to real estates.

3d, It was also an established rule, that general words in one part of a will shall be so construed, as not to defeat the plain intention of the testator, to be collected from any other part of his will. Now, in the present case, the devise to the mother for life, without power of waste, was incompatible with an intention to give her the same lands in see; and, therefore, the residuary clause must be so construed, as to avoid this inconsistency.

On the other side, it was contended, that it was manifest the testator did not mean to die intestate, as to any part of his real property, not only from the expressive words in the residuary clause, but also, from the introductory words of the will, "as to my worldly sub-"stance," which have been always understood to consist of real and personal estate, and to indicate an intent in

the testator, who uses them, to dispose of all his property. The testator's first devise to his mother was only of a part of his real estate: creditors were entitled to another part, that is, so much as should be sufficient, by fale, to discharge their incumbrances. The legatees were entitled to a further part thereof, yet there still remained some part to dispose of; and this remainder the testator had, with perfect consistency, given to his mother, by the residuary clause: the views, with which he made these two devises, were sufficiently obvious; by the former, in all events, and subject to no incumbrance, he made a provision for his mother; by the latter, he gave her the residue, which might remain after all the incumbrances should be discharged. He had not, therefore, given part and the whole to his In this case, the heir at law was-disinherited, both by express words and by necessary implication: for, in the residuary clause, the testator had made use of the most expressive and comprehensive words, in giving to his mother the whole remainder of his real property.

The Judges having been consulted on this case, the Lord Chief Baron delivered their unanimous opinion, that Mary Jackson took an estate in see, in all the testator's property, under the residuary clause; and thej udgement of the Court of King's Bench in England was affirmed.

Doe v. Chapman, 1 H. black. 223. § 69. A person devised all the rest and residue of her estate of what nature or kind soever. It was contended that these words only extended to personal estate,

estate, as the heir at law was not to be deprived of his inheritance, except by express words or necessary implication. But the court faid, they could not restrain the meaning of these words to personal property, and negative the operation of them as to real estates, particularly as they were so general and comprehensive.

§ 70. In a subsequent case the Court of King's Camsield v. Bench held that the words, residue and remainder of effects did not extend to real estates from the apparent intention manifested by the testator, of not extending the word effects to real estates.

Gilbert, 3 East R 516.

§ 71. General words in one part of a will may be Where generestrained by subsequent ones; but such subsequent words must be expressly used to restrain the preceding general ones; thus where lands were mentioned in a devise to be in the tenure of A., these words were confidered as an additional description, and not as a restriction.

ral Words are not restrained.

§ 72. Doctor Paul devised to his wife, his farm at Paul v. Paul, Bovington, in the tenure and occupation of John He devised to her several other estates in the fame manner, and concluded by a general devise to her of all his freehold and copyhold lands above de-The farm at Bovington was a copyhold, which was demised to John Smith, with an exception of the woods and underwoods. The heir at law brought an ejectment for the woods, and the question was whether they passed by the will, not being in the tenure

*6

2 Bur. 1089. I Black. R.

and

and occupation of John Smith, or descended to the heir at law.

Lord Mansfield held, that the words, in the tenure and occupation of J. S., were not words of restriction, but of additional description; had the testator meant them as restrictive, he would have said, all that part of my farm, or so much of my farm as is in the tenure, &c. The farm was an entire thing.

Judgement for the devisee.

Doe v. Meakin, 1 East R 456.

§ 73. A person devised as follows—" I give and " devise all that my messuage, dwelling house or tene-" ment, with the shop, barn, stable, and other buildings thereto belonging, which said messuage or " tenement, building, lands, and premises, are now in " my own possession, and all other my real estate what-" sever, in Murrey or elsewhere in the parish of Yoxall " (in the county of Stafford) or in any other place " what soever in Great Britain, to my wife S. B. and " her assigns, for and during the term of her natural " life: and from and after her decease I give and de-" vise the said messuage or tenement, buildings, lands " and premises, unto my youngest son William Bid-" dulph, his heirs and assigns for ever," &c. He then gave to his eldest son John, the father of the lessor of the plaintiff, one shilling, and the same sum to others of his family; and then defired his wife to let his son William have the use and enjoyment of his workshop and tools belonging to his trade of a blackfmith, during her life, without the payment of any

rent or other consideration for the same. It appeared that the premises in question, which were a certain dwelling house with the appurtenances, were never in the possession of the testator, he having only the reversion in see, expectant upon the death of the widow of his brother, old William Biddulph, who survived him and died lately. A verdict was taken for the lessor of the plaintist, with liberty to the defendant to move to set it aside and enter a verdict for himself; if the court should be of opinion that, under the words of the will, the reversion in see in the premises in question passed to William Biddulph the son. And, a rule nise having been obtained for this purpose, Lord Kenyen, C. J. said:

"This is a very plain case. The testator after giving to his wife for life certain messuages and premises, 56 which he describes as being in his own possession, "with many unnecessary words, proceeds further to " give her for the same term "all other his real estate whatsoever in Murrey or elsewhere, &c. or in any other " place what soever in Great Britain," And after her decease he gives "the faid messuage or tenement, " buildings, lands, and premises," to his youngest son "W. B. in fee. It cannot be pretended that, if the reversion in these premises had fallen into possession in the lifetime of the testator's widow, she would not have been entitled to enjoy them for her life; st then how could we controul the generality of the words of the devise over to the son, which certainly se are large enough to carry the reversion of all that the widow was entitled to for life. In Termes de la P. 241. " Ley, which is a very excellent book, it is said in " laying down rules for unlettered men to make their "wills, that if one devise to J. S. all his lands and tenements, not only all his lands in possession pass, but all those also which he has in reversion by virtue " of the word tenements. Here too the word premises, 66 with reference to what was before devised to the widow, would be ifficient to convey all. But it is " faid that it must be confined to premises in the "testator's possession, because it is connected with se such restraining words in the first clause; but that would be to reject all the intermediate words, to "which the faid premises have a reference, and "amongst them the devise of "all other his real " estates whatsoever," &c. Though there be a particular description of property in a devise, yet if other 56 general words are added, large enough to carry other property, they cannot be rejected, and the devise confined to the property particularly deforibed; as was fettled long ago in Chefter v. Chefter, and was holden more recently in Freeman v. the Duke of Chandos, when a remote reversion not in contemplation of the parties passed by general words ster a particular description."

Inira.

Lawrence, J.—" The word premises in the sirst slause meant the several things before mentioned; and, according to the same sense in the last clause, it comprehends all that was then before described."

§ 74. Where a testator uses general words, equally applicable to freehold and leasehold property, they have in general been restrained to freeholds, where the testator has both freehold and leasehold property; unless a contrary intention appears, and are only applied to leasehold property, where the testator has no free- Ante s. hold property to fatisfy them.

General Words confined to Free-

§ 75. It was refolved by the Court of King's Bench in 8 Cha. 1. "That if a man hath lands in fee and " lands for years, and deviseth all his lands and tene-"ments, the fee simple lands pass only, and not the " lease for years. And if a man hath a lease for

Rose v. Bartlet, Cro. Car. 292.

" years, and no fee simple, and deviseth all his lands so and tenements, the lease for years passeth, for other-" wife the will should be merely void." § 76. Lady Boreman being seised in see of lands in

Davis v. Gibbs, 3 P. Wms. 26.

Kent, and possessed of a mortgage for years in Effex, and also of an extended interest upon a statute in Bucks, devised all her manors, messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, and real estate whatsoever, in Kent, Essex, Bucks, Bedfordshire, or elsewhere in the kingdom of England, of which she was any ways seised or entitled to, unto her nephew. By a latter clause the testatrix gave all the rest, residue, and remainder of her personal estate, plate, gold, &c. and all her mortgages, bonds, specialties, and credits, whatsoever they should consist of, to her nephew and niece. The question was, whether the chattel interests of the testatrix passed by the first clause in the will.

King decreed that they did not, and this decree was affirmed by the House of Lords.

§ 77. The doctrine established in the two preceding cases, has been in some degree contradicted by the two following cases, in which general words have been applied both to freehold and leasehold property.

Addis v. Clement, 2P.Wm.456.

§ 78. Thomas Addis being seised in see of some lands, and possessed of a lease for twenty-one years, all in the possession of A. B. and it being by reason of long unity of possession very difficult to distinguish the fee simple from the leasehold premises, devised all his messuages, lands and tenements, in the parish of D. which he then stood seised or possessed of, or any ways interested in, and which were in the possession of A. and B. unto his wife Jane for her life, remainder to his brother and the heirs of his body, remainder over.

Lord King said, the question was, whether the leasehold passed with the freehold; he must own the limitations were improper, but then the words were very strong—all the lands which the testator was seised or possessed of, or any ways interested in; which words, possessed of or interested in, properly referred to a leasehold estate; and distinguished the present case from that of Rose v. Bartlet, where the words, possessed of or any ways interested in, were not to be found; and as the lease for twenty-one years was held of the church and always renewable, the leffee, who was the testator, might look upon himself, from the right he had to renew, as having a perpetual estate therein,

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. x. § 78, 79.

therein, a kind of inheritance, and therefore the leafehold premises ought to pass by the will. Decreed that the leasehold passed with the freehold.

§ 79. Sir James Lowther having both estates of Lowther v. inheritance and leaseholds in the county of Cumberland Amb. 356. devised in these words—" I give all my manors, lands, tenements, mines of coal and lead, rents and here-"ditaments whatsoever in Cumberland, to James cc Lowther in tail. And whereas I am owner of se-" veral burgage tenures in Cockermouth, it is my will "they shall not be intailed, as I have done my other " estates in Cumberland, and therefore I devise them to Sir William Lowther and his heirs." A question arose in this case, whether the leasehold estates passed by the devise to James Lowther, or to Sir William the refiduary legatee.

Cavendish,

Lord Keeper Henley said, it was plain from the clause excepting the burgage tenures, that the testator thought he had intailed these leaseholds upon Sir The word estates in the will was a general term, and comprehended both freehold and leasehold, and was not restrained to either. But it was said that he having both forts of estates, by the general words, estates of inheritance only passed according to the case of Rose v. Bartlett. A single authority, where it was Ante s. 75. held that the words, lands and tenements related to estates of inheritance only. That resolution might be law in that particular case, though he could see no reason why those words should not include leaseholds too as they had been held to do, where other words

were

were added as in Addis v. Clement—lands in which he was any ways interested.—In the present case there were words inserted which were material to pass lease-holds, as, mines and rents, which it would be strange to suppose him to devise without the lands of which they were the profits, and from whence they slowed. He could never intend to give them in the residuary clause, after he had before specifically devised every estate he had.

§ 80. A testator being seised of tithes in see, and

Turner v. Huster, 1 Bro. R. 78.

having a lease of other tithes for years perpetually renewable, without fine, devised all his lands, tenements, tithes, &c. to the defendant. The plaintiff being the personal representative of the testator, filed his bill for the leasehold tithes, insisting that the freehold tithes only passed by the will. Mr. Baron Eyre sitting for the Chancellor, said, the case of Rose v. Bartlet had theen often referred to, and acknowledged, one could not but respect a case so supported, yet one could not help asking, why, by so general an expression, all the lands should not pass? No reason was given in the cases, there was none arising from the favour shewn to an heir at law, for the ordinary or next of kin were not confidered in that light. There was none from the general rules of construction. If the words were thu: same, and the testator had only one interest, that would pass. If he had different interests, the intent see med to be the same, why should not the whole pails? There was but little reason in saying that the freehold satisfied the words. By the case of Paul va

Paul, general words were not to be restrained, unless

Ante f. 75.

Ante f. 72.

the

the court fees abundant reason to think that the testator meant to use them in a restrained sense. There was no good reason, where there is freehold and leasehold, why the freehold only should pass; he could not see why both should not pass. The words were large enough; the determination of Rose v. Bartlet was very early, he was led to think the old idea of the dignity of the freehold, and small value of the interesse termini, led to it. The leafeholder was held to be a mere pernor of the profits. From the change of circumstances the rule was now become unsatisfactory. We are considering the intent of a testator; it is a degree of strictness inconsistent with the present state of things, to say that a man by his lands does not mean all. He did not mean to deny the authority of Rose v. Bartlet, but he could not build upon it, and take the construction for tithes here, that is applied there for lands. He was not prepared to fay that the word tithes would not pass the leasehold, as well as the freehold. The form here was a lease, but being renewable it was as much the testator's as his inheritance. The case of Addis v. Clement was argued from the intent. The limitations here were fit for an estate of inheritance. He inferred from this that the power of renewal had made the testator forget that he had not the inheritance. As to there being no mention of a renewal, this was not upon a fine, so there was no need to raise a fund for that purpose. In common understanding chattels real are real estates. The case of Addis v. Clement was very near this case. He admitted the words "possessed of and interested in" made that case stronger, but the leading principles were the Vol. VI. same. same. He was glad to be supported by such a case in the opinion he should give, namely, that the leasehold tithes did pass.

§ 81. There is however a case determined by Lord Hardwicke, as well as two modern ones, in which the rule laid down in Rose v. Bartlet was adhered to, and general words restrained to freehold estates in exclusion of leaseholds.

Knotsford v. Gardiner, 2 Atk. 450.

§ 82. A person being seised in see of some lands and possessed of several leaseholds in the same parish, devised in the following manner—" I give, devise, and " bequeath, unto Martha my wife for life, all my " estates in L. and after her decease I give, devise, " and bequeath the aforementioned estates to my " daughter Ann and her heirs for ever. Item, I give " and bequeath unto my wife all my goods and chat-" tels, and all other things not before bequeathed." Martha the devisee, some time after the death of the testator, married again, and had the plaintiff by her fecond husband; who insisted that, by the devise to the wife of the residue, the leasehold lands passed to her, and claimed as executor of his mother, who was the executrix of the testator; saying that, as there were both freehold and leasehold, nothing but the freehold passed to the defendant, being sufficient to answer the word estates in the will.

Mr. Murray for the plaintiff, cited the case of Rose v. Bartlet, so shew that, if words are used applicable

to both, they will by way of eminence only pass fee fimple lands.

For the defendant it was faid, that the wife of the testator had these very freehold lands settled upon her in marriage, and the testator had no other freehold, but a little cottage of very small value.

Lord Hardwicke observed, that as the facts were not fully before him, it must go to a trial at law. Lordship stated the doctrine laid down in Rose v. Bartlet, and said, "Though in the present case I have Chapman v. " no doubt at all, as to the intention of the testator, " yet the rule of law would prevail."

1 Ves. 271.

§ 83. A testator being seised of freehold estates of Pistol v. confiderable annual value, and also possessed of two farms holden by leases of 1000 years each, by his will gave, bequeathed, and devised, "All his manors, ad- 459 n. " vowson, donation, right of patronage and presen-

Riccardion, 1 H. Black. R. 26 2 P. Wms.

- " tation, and all and every his feveral messuages,
- " lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever,
- " and wherefoever, which he was seised of, interested
- " in, or entitled to, lying and being within the feveral
- "counties of N. E. W. and T. to his son, for life,
- "with impeachment for all wilful waste, and from
- " and after his decease to the heirs of his body;" with a fimilar limitation to his daughter, and the heirs of her body; remainder to the heirs of the testator's family. This case was twice argued in K. B.: and the court upon very full consideration, and with some reluctance, determined, that the two leasehold farms

did not pass by this devise. Lord Mansfield, in delivering the judgment of the court, stated the will at length; and said, he did so in order to shew that there were no words in the will, except the devise itself, which indicated any intention in the testator to convey the leasehold premises; and that, although the words of the devise were very comprehensive, yet a system of legal construction had been established in former cases (especially Rose v. Bartlet, and Davis v. Gibbs) which precluded them from considering the intention of the testator on the words of the devise, as they might otherwise have done, and bound them in the decision of the principal case.

- N. B. It seems that Addis v. Clement was not once adverted to in the consideration of this case.
- § 84. The rule laid down in Rose v. Bartlet has however been in some degree departed from by the Court of King's Bench in the following case.

Lane v. Lord Stanhope, 6 Term Rep. 345. § 85. Henry Bosville being seised of several freehold estates, and possessed of a part of a farm held under the church for twenty-one years renewable, held with another part of the farm, and let together as one, devised all his manors, messuages, houses, farms, lands, woodlands, hereditaments, and real estate whatsoever, to R. Bettinson for life; remainder to his first and other sons, &c. and gave all the rest and residue of his ready money, rents in arrear, stock in the public sunds, jewels, and personal estate to Richard Bettinson for ever.

Upon a question in a suit in Chancery, whether the word "farms," carried the leasehold under the first devise, a case was sent to the Court of King's Bench for their opinion.

Lord Kenyon, C. J.—" We will certify in this case; but I will now say a few words to shew the foundation of my opinion. It is our duty, in construing a will, to give effect to the devisor's intention as far as we can, confistently with the rules of law; not conjecturing, but expounding his will from the words used. Where certain words have obtained a precise technical meaning, we ought not to give them a different meaning; that would be, as Lord King and other judges have said, removing land-marks; but, if there be no fuch appropriate meaning to the words used in a will, if the devisor's intention be clear, and the words used be sufficient to give effect to it, we ought to construe those words so as to give effect to the intent, and not to doubt on account of other cases, which tend only to involve the question in obscurity, On the whole of this will, taking it together, I have no doubt. The devisor had two kinds of property, real and personal property. It appears by the case, that a part of a farm, held by a lease under the Archbishop of Canterbury, had been for a long course of years in the testator's family, and was considered almost equivalent to a perpetuity, on account of the covenant to renew; and that, as far as can be traced, it had been let by the testator and his family, together with the rest of the farm, which is an estate of inheritance, and which belonged to them, as one farm, to

the same tenant, under one integral rent. Every one must be aware of the inconvenience of splitting this farm now, on account of the apportionment of rent, and the power of distress; and perhaps it would be difficult for either party to occupy it beneficially. The testator, having this various property, sat down to make his will; and he devised "all his manors, mes-" suages or tenements, houses, farms, lands, wood-" lands, hereditaments, and real estate, whatsoever " and wheresoever, unto R. Bettinson," &c. In many cases that might be put, I should not lay much stress on the word "farm;" whether it should have much or little weight, must depend upon the subject. Then, after giving some pecuniary legacies, the testator added a residuary clause, by which he gave "all the rest and residue of his ready money, rents in arrear, " stock in any of the public funds, jewels, and per-" sonal estate, unto R. Bettinson," &c. Now, if this will were to be read by any person, not settered with legal and technical notions, he would not hesitate about the intention, but would say, that all the landed property, without confidering the circumstances of that landed property, was disposed of by the first clause, and all the personal property by the last. It is material to observe, that the first words in the residuary clause apply to money; after which it is not to be supposed, that the testator intended to recur to the land; he having in the former part of his will used words sufficiently comprehensive to include every species of landed property. I admit that several of the limitations, which are applied to the real estate, are inapplicable to the species of property now in dis-

pute; but I think it would be too much to fay, that that observation alone should preclude the idea, that the testator intended to pass the leasehold part of the farm, under the words used in the first clause; as we all know how frequently many of the limitatious, used in a will, are inapplicable to every species of property disposed of by it. I do not wonder, that this court determined the case of Pistol v. Riccardson with reluctance, as is mentioned by the note in 2 P. Wms. for it appears, that that case came before the court at several different times. I only lament, that the case of Addis v. Clement was not then cited; for Lord Mansfield seemed to feel himself pressed by a torrent of authorities to decide contrary to his better judgment; and I cannot forbear thinking, that, if Addis v. Clement had then been mentioned, the court would have decided the other way with less-reluctance. The reason, why they determined in that case that the leasehold farm did not pass by that will, was, because they thought that all the words there used had received in other cases a certain technical construction, and therefore that they were bound by those decisions. But we have not that difficulty to encounter in this case; because here we find another word in the will, "farms," which in its general fignification means that, which is held by a person who stands in the relation of tenant to a land-The extrinsic circumstances also weigh strongly in this.case. Therefore, taking into consideration the residuary clause, in which the items enumerated are all personal chattels, and that the testator did not mean to die intestate as to any part of his property, though the property in dispute is a personal estate, yet, as it is

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. x. § 85-87.

connected with land, I think that the construction that this family have put on the whole will is the true construction."

The following certificate was afterwards fent to the Court of Chancery.

- "We have heard this case argued, and considered the effect of this will, and are of opinion, taking
- " the whole of the will together, that the leasehold
- 66 properly in question is not included in the residuary
- " bequest, but passed by the prior devise, although
- " some of the limitations, applied to the real estates,
- " are inapplicable to this species of property."

\$ 86. In a subsequent case Lord Ch. Just. Eldon and all the other Judges of the Court of Common Pleas held, that the rule laid down in Rose v. Bartlet was a rule of property not to be shaken, and therefore that under a general devise, leaseholds did not pass, unless there was something to shew an evident intent that they should pass.

Thompson v.
Lawley,
2 Bos. & Pul.
R. 303.
5 Ves. Jun.
476.

§ 87. Mr. Thompson being seised of the manor of W. and other real estates in Yorkshire, and possessed of two leasehold houses, devised his manor of W. and all other his manors, messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to trustees and their heirs, to the use of his son for life, remainder in strict settlement; and devised all his money securities for money, goods, chattels and essects, and all other his personal estate not before disposed of, to his brother and sister. Upon a case

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case sent by the Court of Chancery to the Court of Common Pleas, the question was, whether the leaseholds passed under the first general devise. Lord Eldon stated the reasons for the certificate, and after observing that Lord Kenyon had faid in the preceding case, it was the duty of courts of justice to give effect to the devisor's intention, as far as they could confistently with the rules of law, not conjecturing but expounding his will from the words used; and that he was particularly impressed with the latter expression not conjecturing but expounding his will from the " words used." His Lordship said, that whether the rule laid down in Rose v. Bartlet were wisely adopted or not, it was unnecessary to determine; but that case having once established a general rule, he had rather consent pointedly and avowedly to contradict that rule in terms, than to acknowledge it in words, and deny it in effect, by raising distinctions which in fact made it impossible for any man to decide in any particular case what was the legal construction of a will, as to this point, till he had obtained the authority of a court of law, in a judgement upon the will, for the opinion which he gave. That it did not appear that there was any equitable right of renewal, nor even the premises in question blended, in enjoyment or otherwise, with any freehold land; there was no difficulty in distinguishing them from each other, they had never been demised together, at one rent, reserved to heirs, they were short terms. No one of those particular circumstances which were relied upon in former cases existed in this. It was the simple case of terms for years, and a case of property, prima facie, that sort of property which a disposition of personal estate must be intended to pass. That the estates included in the general devise were limited to the issue of the devisor in tail, with several remainders over. His Lordship entered into an examination of all the preceding cases, and concluded by saying—". The rule in Rose v. "Bartlet is a rule which has been acknowledged for ages, and upon which I shall act, until I am in-" formed by the highest authority, that I am no longer to regard it; till I shall be so informed I shall substantially regard it in judgement, for I shall substantially regard it in judgement, for I must not do, than to deny to it its effect, upon grounds which do not completely satisfy my mind, sa solid and safe grounds of distinction."

All the other Judges said that the rule in Rose v. Bartlet ought not to be shaken, and the court certified that the leasehold houses did not pass by the general devise,

What Words
necessary to
pass Copyholds.
Tendrill v.
Smith, 2 Atk.
S5.
Godwyn v.
Godwyn,
1 Ves. 226.

- § 88. With respect to the words which are necessary to pass copyholds, it is laid down by Lord Hard-wicke, that where copyhold lands are surrendered to the use of a will, they pass by a general devise of fall the testator's lands and tenements, notwithstanding there are freeholds to answer such devise.
- § 89. But where copyholds have not been surrendered to the use of the testator's will, they do not pass by general words, because the want of a surrender renders

renders it doubtful whether the testator intended to dispose of his copyholds or not.

Vide Ante ch. 4. f. 26.

§ 90. A person, being seised of real estates in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, and possessed of copy- 2 Bro. R. 64, holds in those counties, devised all his messuages, farms, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, with the appurtenances in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, to his wife for life, &c.. The copyholds were not furrendered to the use of the will; and, therefore, Lord Kenyon, (Master of the Rolls), held they did not pass by it.

Milbourn v. Milbourn,

§ 91. A person devised to trustees all his messuages, cottages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, and real estate whatsoever, situate within the parishes of N. &c. and also all his melliuages, &c. in S. and Pershall, &c. upon trust to sell and dispose of the same to pay his debts and legacies. The question was, whether a small copyhold estate, which was supposed to be freehold, passed?

Lindopp v. 3 Bro. Rep.

. Lord Thurlow held, that it did not pass; for although where the copyhold is necessary to pay debts, it is held equivalent to a description of it, yet here, it not being necessary for that purpose, it should not pass for the further purpose of going to the younger child. The court had only held, that where a child was unprovided for, not where the question was, as to the more or less of the provision, to which the intention could never be held to apply.

Brooke v. Gurney, cited 5 Vef. Jun. 559. § 92. A testator having freehold and copyhold estates, but not having surrendered the copyholds to the use of his will, gave all his estates by general words to his wife for life, and, in default of issue of his own body by her, to her in see.

Sir Thomas Sewell M. R. thought the widow entitled to the copyhold estate under the words; but the bill not being filed till 21 years after the will, and the widow having joined with her son in a conveyance in 1763, which amounted to an admission that she was not entitled to the copyholds, the Master of the Rolls thought the length of acquiescence, and that circumstance, put an end to her right.

Lord Thurlow affirmed the decree against the widow, but upon a different ground; being of opinion, that as there was freehold estate to satisfy the words, the copyhold estate would not pass.

What Words necessary to pass Reversions.

§ 93. With respect to the words necessary to pass estates in reversion, wherever a testator shews an intention to dispose of all his property by his will, and uses words sufficient for that purpose, the estates to which he is entitled in reversion will pass.

Wheeler v. Waldron, Allen. 28. 3 P.Wms.63. 8. E. Somertsetshire, devised the manor to A. for six years, and part of the other lands to B. in see; and then comes this clause: "And the rest of my lands in Somer-" setshire, or elsewhere, I give to my brother." It

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was adjudged, that the reversion of the manor passed by the word " rest."

§ 95. A person settled part of his lands on his daughter for life, and devised another part to his wife for a year after his death, and then devised all his lands, not settled or devised, to Thomas Keyse and his heirs. Adjudged, that the reversion of the lands, settled on his daughter, passed by this devise.

Cooke v. Gerrard, 1 Lev. 212. Saund. 180.

§ 96. A person, being seised in see, devised Blackacre to A. for life, and devised to B. all his lands not before devised, to be fold, and the money to be divided between his younger children. The question was, whether the reversion of Blackacre passed by the devise of all his lands not before devised? And, it being referred to the Judges of the Common Pleas, they unanimously agreed and certified, that the reversion was well devised. And it was decreed accordingly.

Rook v. Rook, 2 Vern.

· § 97. A person devised a house to A. and his wife Willows v. for their lives, and then, the better to enable his wife to pay his legacies, he devised to her all his messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatfoever, within the kingdom of England, not before disposed of, to hold to her and her heirs. It was also found, that the testator left sufficient to pay his legacies, without the reversion of the house. The Court of King's Bench determined, that the reversion of the house did not pass; but this judgment was unanimously reversed in the Exchequer Chamber.

Lidcot, 2 Vent. 285. 3 Mod. 229. Dalby v. Champernon, Skin. 631. § 98. A person who was tenant for life, remainder to his first and other sons, with the reversion in see in himself, having a son and a daughter, devised all his lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to his daughter in see, in case his son should die without issue. The son did die without issue: and Holt Chief Justice said, that though B. had only a dry reversion in see, yet, that by the words "all his lands, tenements, and hereditaments," such reversion would pass.

5 99. The words "all my lands out of settlement," and also the words "not by me formerly settled," will comprehend reversions in see, after estates tail.

Falkland v. Lytton, 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 24. Vide 3 Atk. 492. § 100. Sir William Lytton, being tenant in tail, after possibility, of some lands, remainder in see to trustees, in trust for himself and his heirs; and being also tenant in tail of some other lands, remainder to the right heirs of his father, and having no issue, devised all his messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, out of settlement, to his nephew Lytton Strode and his heirs. The question was, whether the different reversions in see, to which he was entitled, should pass by this will? It was decreed, that by the words "lands out of settlement," the reversion in see passed: for the same lands may be said to be settled and unsettled; viz. settled so far as the use thereof is limited, and unsettled as to the reversion.

Chester v. Chester, 3 P. Wms. 56. § 101. Sir John Chester, on the marriage of his eldest son, settled lands of 800 s. per annum on himself for life, remainder as to part, to the wife of his son for

life,

life, remainder to the first and other sons of that marriage in tail male, remainder to the son in tail general. And, being seised in see of other lands in possession, in Littleton, Marston, and Milbroke, he devised all his lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in these three towns of Littleton, Marston, and Milbroke, or elsewhere, not by him formerly settled, or thereby by him otherwise disposed of, to trustees for the term of 100 years, upon the trusts therein mentioned, remainder to his younger son John Chester, in see. The eldest son died, leaving six daughters; and the question was, whether the reversion of the estate settled on the eldest son should pass by this devise?

It was decreed by Lord King, affifted by Lord Raymond, and another Judge, 1st, That the word "else-" where" was the same, as if the testator had said, he devised all his lands in the three towns particularly mentioned, or in any other place whatever: and that there was no reason to reject so plain, proper, and intelligible a word in a will as this, which probably was inserted to avoid the prolixity of naming the several other towns in which the premises lay; it being a great estate, and difficult, at the time of making the will, when the testator might be supposed to be inops confilii, and without his writings, to particularize all the towns. That the word "elsewhere" was, therefore, the most significant, sensible, and comprehensive word, that could be used for that purpose, equivalent to the meaning of them; and it would be of the most dangerous consequence, under pretence of construing this will and assisting the testator's intentions, to reject a word so material to be made use of, both for the sake of brevity and security.

2d, That the words, "not otherwise by me settled," could have excepted only that estate in the lands, which was otherwise before settled; whereas, it was plain, that the reversion in see was not settled, and, therefore, ought to pass by the will. The reversion in see of the lands in question not being settled, the lands, as to such reversion, were not settled; so that the same lands, in several respects, might be said to be settled and unsettled; viz. with regard to all the particular estates which were limited, the lands might be said to be settled, though, with regard to the reversion in see, it might be properly said, that the lands were not settled: and the reversion in see, which remained unsettled, was part of the old estate, whereof the owner continued seised.

Glover v. Spendlove, 4 Bro. R. 337.

Freeman v. D. of Chandos, Cowp. 363.

S 102. Robert Tracey, being seised of estates in the counties of Gloucester and Worcester, and also entitled to the reversion of certain estates in the counties of Oxford and Wilts, devised all and every his manors, messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments, and premises, in the counties of Gloucester and Worcester, and elsewhere in the kingdom of England, to trustees, subject to certain charges thereon, and to certain limitations and estates to all his brothers, by his marriage settlement. The estates in the counties of Gloucester and Worcester were the only ones charged, or mentioned in his marriage settlement. The question was, whether the reversion in see of the estates in Oxfordsbire passed

passed by the will? It was contended that, from the words of the will, referring to the limitations of the estates in the counties of Gloucester and Worcester, and the charges thereon, it was manifest the testator had no other estates than those in contemplation, at the time of making his will. But the Court of King's Bench unanimously certified, that the reversion in see of the estates in Oxfordshire and Wiltshire, passed by this devise.

§ 103. Edward Atkyns, having issue Edward and three younger children, and being seised in see in posfession of the manor of Cotes, and other lands therein, and near Pinbury Park in the county of Gloucester, expectant on the estates tail of three persons then living, made his will, and thereby devised as follows: "I give, "devise, and bequeath, all that the manor or lordship, or reputed manor or lordship, of Cotes in the county of Gloucester, with the rights, royalties, and appurtenances, and also all and every the messuages, farms, " lands, tenements, advowsons, and hereditaments whatsoever, of me the said Edward Atkyns, situate, " lying, and being within or adjoining to the faid maor nor or lordship; and also all that my capital messu-46 age or tenement, and all and every my lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, whether free-66 hold or leasehold, situate and being at, or in, or near Pinbury Park, or elsewhere in the said county of Glou-" cester, with their appurtenances; and all my estate, term of years, and interest therein, unto and to the " use of my executors, their heirs," &c. upon trust to sell the same for the benefit of his younger children. Vol. VI. Several

Atkyns v. Atkyns, Cowp.R.808.

Several years after the death of the testator, the reversion of the manor of Sewell came into possession; and a question arose between the heir at law and the younger children, whether the reversion in see of the manor of Sewell did pass by the will of the testator. A case was made by order of Lord Chancellor Thurlow, for the opinion of the Court of King's Bench; who certified, that the reversion in see of the manor of Sewell did pass, by the express words of the will of the testator, to the trustees in the will lnamed.

The Lord Chancellor ordered, that the Judges certificate should be confirmed.

3 Bro. Parl., Ca. 438. From this order, an appeal was brought to the House of Lords; and a question was put to the judges, whether the reversion of the manor of Sewell passed by this devise? The Lord Chief Baron delivered the unanimous opinion of the Judges, that the reversion in fee of the manor of Sewell passed by this devise. The decree was affirmed.

\$ 104. Where it is manifest, that a testator does not intend to devise a reversion by general words, it will not pass.

Roe v. Avis, 4 Term R. § 105. A person, being seised in tail of an undivided sourth of an estate, and entitled to the reversion in see of another sourth expectant on the determination of an estate tail, reciting that she was entitled to the first, devised it to B. C. in see, and then directed all the residue and remainder of her estate and essects

to be fold as soon as might be after her death, and her funeral expences to be paid thereout, and the overplus, (if any), to be divided between D. " and E." The court held, that the reversion did not pass: for, although those general words were sufficient to pass a fee, in order to answer the purposes of a will, yet in this case, they said, that it was manifest that this remainder was not in the contemplation of the testatrix when she made her will, it being only a reversion expectant on the determination of an estate tail, which her aunts might have barred, and the testatrix having, by the former part of her will, disposed of all the freehold estate, to which she supposed herself entitled. They observed that it was clear, from the purpose to which a part of the produce of what she directed to be fold was to be applied, namely, the paying of her funeral expences, that she only meant to dispose of fomething which could be fold immediately; and that this reversion might never have descended to her heirs.

\$ 106. In consequence of the rule above stated, that general words in one part of a will may be restrained by subsequent ones, it has been determined, that, although a testator uses words sufficient to carry a reversion, yet if a subsequent clause shews, that the testator did not intend to devise such reversion, it will not pass.

§ 107. Audley Mervin, on the marriage of his eldest son Henry, settled the manor of Arlestown on himself for life, remainder to his son Henry for life,

Teat v. Strong, 2 Bur. 912. Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. x. \$ 107.

remainder to the first and other sons of Henry in tail, &c. with the reversion in see to the father.

Audley Mervin had issue three other sons, Audley, James, and Theophilus, and sour daughters: and, being seised of other lands in see-simple, he made his will, by which he devised all those lands whereof he was seised in see-simple, in possession, to his wife, and also all other the lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in the said counties of Tyrone and Meath, or either of them, whereof he was seised in see-simple, or of which any other person was seised, in trust for him.

There was a proviso inserted in this will, that if his sons Herry and Audley (who were his first and second sons), should both of them die without issue male, in the lifetime of his son James, (who was his third son), whereby the estate settled on his son Henry, on his marriage, should descend on his son James, that then his son James should not take any interest or estate in the lands, therein-before devised to him.

The question was, Whether the reversion in fee of the lands, which were settled on *Henry*, should pass by this devise?

The Court of King's Bench in Ireland gave judgment, that the reversion in fee did pass; but this judgment was reversed by the Court of King's Bench in England.

Lord Mansfield, in declaring the opinion of the Court, observed, that the words used by the testator, were certainly sufficient to carry the reversion in see of the lands settled on Henry, if they had not been restrained by other words and expressions: and that the clause in the will, (besides several others), which directed that, in case Henry and Audley should die without issue male in the lifetime of his son James, whereby the estate settled on Henry should descend to James, then James should not take any estate in the lands devised to him, proved, to a demonstration, that the testator did not mean to devise this reversion: for, if he had, then it could never go to James.

A writ of error was brought in the House of Lords: and the Judges, having been consulted on this question, gave it as their unanimous opinion, that the reversion in fee did not pass by this devise; in consequence of which, the judgment of the Court of King's Beach of England was affirmed.

3 Bro, Parl. Ca. 219.

\$ 108. Lands which are in mortgage, and whereof the devisor has only the equity of redemption, will pass by the same words, which comprehend estates in possession; because lands mortgaged, are only considered as a pledge for securing the repayment of a debt, and remain in the mortgagor, for every other purpose.

What Words.
pass Mortgages and
Lands held
in Frust for
others.

§ 109. John Philips having mortgaged his estate in fee to Elizabeth Knowling, afterwards made his will, by which he gave all the rost of his goods, chattels,

Philips v. Hele, 1 Rep. in Chs. 101. and lands, to Ralph Philips the younger, who filed his bill for the redemption of the premises.

The Court ordered a case to be referred to Baron Turner, who certified his opinion, that, according to the devise, the lands ought to continue with the plaintiff and his heirs, both in law and equity; and that the plaintiff had right to redeem the mostgage, and not the heir of the testator; which the Court decreed accordingly.

Crips v.
Gryfil, Cro.
Car. 57.

§ 110. It was formerly held, that lands mortgaged, might also be devised by the mortgagee, by the words "all my mortgages." But, afterwards, the courts laid it down, that these words would only comprehend mortgages for years, and not mortgages in see, especially if they were forseited.

Wilkinson v. Merryland, Cro.Car 447. S 111. A person seised of divers lands in A. B. and C., the lands in C. being in him by mortgage and forseited, made his will; and, after devising the lands in A. and B. to several persons and their heirs, he gave all the rest of his goods, chattels, leases, estates, mortgages, debts, ready money, plate, and other goods, whereof he was possessed, to his wife, after his debts and legacies were paid, and made her his executrix. The court doubted, whether the estate in mortgage passed to the wife; because the word "mortgage" was coupled with personal things, and because the testator used the words "whereof I am possessed."

§ 112. A person who was seised of lands in see, and Wynne y. of mortgages in fee, devised all his lands to A. B., and then gave several legacies, and said—all the residue of my personal estate I give to my executor. It was refolved, that the mortgage went to the executor. But, if the testator had only devised his lands, without giving any legacies, and had bequeathed the rest of his personal estate to his executors, there, perhaps, the mortgaged lands would have passed to A. B., for, else, there would be nothing to answer and make sense of the clause "all the residue;" for that implied, that he had already devised some part of his personal estate, or, at least, it shewed that he intended part of it should have passed.

§ 113. This doctrine, however, is now entirely al- Vide Tit. 15. tered: for, the nature of mortgages being at present ch. 2. s. 35. clearly understood, and the whole transaction, till foreclosure, being considered as a personal engagement only, in which the money is the principal, and the conveyance of the land only an accessary, it is now established, that neither the general words, "lands, " tenements, and hereditaments," nor any other words particularly appropriated to the description of real estates, and never applied to personal property, will carry mortgages in fee, if the testator has other property, to which those words may be properly applied.

§ 114. A person being seised of several manors, and Litton v. of a great personal estate, made his will; and, after devising part to his wife for life, gave all other his lands, tenements, and hereditaments, out of settlement, to his nephew. The testator, afterwards, foreclosed,

Lady Ruffell, 2 Vern. 621.

and got releases of the equity of redemption of some mortgages in see. And one of the questions in this case was, whether these mortgages passed by the will, under the words "lands, tenements, and bereditative ments." And it was unanimously agreed by the Lord Chancellor, assisted by the Master of the Rolls, and two other Judges, that mortgages in see, although forseited when the will was made, did not pass by these general words.

1 Atk. 605.

§ 115. If a testator has no other landed property, answering the description given in his will, in point of situation and circumstances, except mortgages, they will pass by general words, though not particularly adapted to the subject.

Clarke v. Abbot, 2 Ab. Eq. 606. Suan Inn at Chelsea, made his will, and thereby devised to A. and his heirs "all his freehold messuages, and garden grounds at Chelsea." It was held by Lord Hardwicke, on a question whether the mortgaged interest would pass by this description, that, as it did not appear that the testator had any lands there, it certainly would. Yet it is observable on this case, that the word "freehold" could with less propriety be applied to the case of a mortgage, than the words "lands, "tenements, and bereditaments;" the latter being much more general in their nature, and more frequently used as sweeping terms, to comprise all property not particularly described.

5 117. Various opinions have been entertained within these sew years respecting the question, whether a general devise passes lands whereof the devisor is only mortgagee or trustee. In a case before Lord Rosslyn in 1800, it was contended, that general words did not pass a trust estate, unless there appeared to be an intention that they should pass; to which, his Lordship said, that was certainly the understanding: but, perhaps, the most convenient rule would have been the reverse; as it might be more easy to find a devisee than an heir.

I Inst. 205 a.

Att. General v. Buller, 5 Ves. Jun. 339.

Lord Redesdale, who was then Attorney General, (amicus curiæ), suggested that the rule, that a trust estate should pass by a general devise, would not be the most convenient, from the frequent instances of estates tail created by general words, in consequence of which, the legal estate might get into an infant, settered with an intail,

S 118. In a subsequent case before Lord Eldon, his Lordship held, that a trust estate would pass by a general devise, unless an intention to the contrary could be inferred from expressions in the will, or purposes or objects of the testator. The Master of the Rolls had determined, that a trust estate passed by the general words of a will; and, on an appeal to Lord Eldon, his Lordship said,— "I am disposed, in this cause, to concur with the opinion of the Master of the Rolls; "meaning rather to state my judgment, that the rule is not, that in every case where general words are used, the property shall or shall not pass, but that,

Braybroke v.
Inskip, 8 Ves.
Jun. 417.
Roe v. Reade
8 Term R.
118.

"in each case, you must look at every part of the will, " for the intention with regard to such property. I do do not know in experience any case, in which the " proposition is laid down so strong, one way or the other, as it was laid down in the Attorney General "v. Buller. I know no case, which states as the rule, " that trust estates shall not pass, unless the intention, " that they should pass, appears; and I incline to "think they will pass, unless I can collect from ex-" pressions in the will or purposes or objects of the " testator, that he did not mean they should pass. "In this case there is no circumstance, except one, "that I shall observe upon, denoting any special in-"tention. It is the case of a dry trust; all the debts " and legacies being long paid, as I now understand. "There was therefore a pure legal estate in the tesce tator; nothing remaining to be done but to re-" convey. There is no one circumstance in this will, " to cut down the general effect upon any notion of intention; unless it can be faid, that where he meant to create a trust, viz. as to the personal " estate, he joins another person with his wife; giving " the real estate to her alone. But that is too thin " an evidence of intention to afford much inference.

"The refult is this: a will containing words large enough; and no expression in it authorizing a nar"rower construction than the general legal construction; nor any such disposition of the estate as is unlikely for a testator to make of any property not in the strictest sense his; as complicated limitations:
"nor any purpose at all inconsistent with as probable or any

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. x. § 118.

"an intention to vest it in his wife, as devisee, as to

let it descend. I know of no case, in which a mere

devise in these general terms, without more, where

the question of intention cannot be embarrassed by

any reasoning upon the purpose or objects, or the

person of the devisee, has been held not to pass the

trust estate. If there was any such case, I would

abide by it; but I do not feel strong enough, upon

authority or reasoning, to dissent from the decision

of the Master of the Rolls."

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. XI.

Construction.—What Words create an Estate in Fee.

- § 3. Any Words indicating an Interest.
- 22. Effett of an introductory
 Clause.
- 25. Effett of the Word Eftate.
- 37. All the Rest and Residue of my Estate.
- 43. Whatever else I bave not dis-
- 45. Remainder.
- 47. Reversion.
- 49. Devise on Condition of paying a Sum of Money.

- 54. Devise charged with Debts and Legacies.
- 60. Devise charged with an annual Payment for ever.
- 64. Devise charged with an annual Payment for Life.
- 71. Exception.—Where the Charge is on the Rents and Profits.
- 72. Devise to Trustees for Purposes requiring a Fee.
- 76. A general Devise passes the whole Interest in a Chattel.

Section 1.

WITH respect to the words, which are necessary to denote the quantity of estate or interest, intended to be given by the testator to the devise, the courts, both of law and equity, in conformity to the general rules of construction already stated, do not require in a devise, those legal and technical words, which in a deed are deemed absolutely necessary to the creation of particular estates; but will carry the intention of the testator into essect, if sufficiently declared, however desective the language may be.

§ 2. The quantity of estate intended to be given, may be described either by express words, or by reference to another devise; and, therefore, if a testator Perk. s. 561. devises Blackacre to A. B. and his heirs, and Whiteacre to C. D. to hold in the same manner as A. B. holds Blackaere, C.D. will take an estate in see-simple in Whiteacre.

§ 3. It has long been fettled, that the word " beir's" need not be used in a will to create an estate in see; but that any other words, which sufficiently shew the intention of the testator to give the whole of his interest. rest in the thing devised, to the devisee, will have the same effect.

Any Words shewing any Intention to give the whole Inte-1 P. Wms. 77-

§ 4. Thus, it was settled so early as in the reign of Edw. 3., that a devise to a man in perpetuum, gave him an estate in fee. It is the same, where the devise is to a person in fee-simple, or to him and his heirs: so, of a devise to a man and his successors, the word " successors" being deemed equivalent to heirs; for bæres succedit patri.

Bro. Ab. Devise, pl. 33. 1 Inst. 9 6. 1 Rep. 35 6.

- § 5. It is said by Perkins, sect. 557. that if lands of wire be devised to J. S. to hold to him and his assigns, he will take a fee: but Lord Coke says, if the devise be to a man and his assigns, without saying for ever, the devisee hath but an estate for life.
- § 6. A devise to A. et sanguini suo will pass a see; Iden. for the blood runs through the collateral, as well as the

the lineal line: but a devise to a man, et semini sue, only gives him an estate tail.

Widlake v. Harding, Hob. 2. § 7. Where a person, seised of a house and lands, demised them for 99 years, and then made his will, by which, he devised to B. his house and all his lands for 99 years, and added these words, "the said B. to have all my inheritance, if the law will allow:" it was held, that B. took a fee.

Levezeres v. Blight, Cowp. 352.

§ 8. The words, "freely to be enjoyed," have been held to pass an estate in see: as, where after an introductory clause, shewing an intention to dispose of his whole estate, a person gave to his sons T. M. and R. M. all his lands and tenements, "freely to be enjoyed and possessed alike," it was held that a see passed.

Green v. Armstead, Hob. 65. § 9. Where A. seised of lands in W. devised them to his son B. for his life, and then to remain to C. the son of B., except B. purchased another house with so much land as in W. for C., and then B. should sell the lands in W. as his own. It was held, that C. took a see in the lands in W., as B. did not make any purchase of any other lands; for the word "purchase" imported, in common parlance, an absolute purchase in see.

Webb v.
Hearing,
Cro. Ja. 415.
Willes Rep.
165. Vide
infra ch. 12.

S 10. A devise to a person and his heirs, and, if he dies without heirs, that it shall remain to a stranger, gives an estate in see to the first devisee, and the remainder

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xi. § 10—15. remainder is void; because no remainder can be limited after an estate in see-simple.

- § 11. Lord Coke says, that a devise to a person, to give and sell, passes an estate in see; and this doctrine has been confirmed by several determinations.
- § 12. A person devised to A. to give, sell, and do Bro. Ab. Tit. Devile, pl. 39. therewith at his will and pleasure; held, that the devisee took an estate in see-simple.
- § 13. A person devised lands to his wife, to dispose Moor 57. and employ them on her and his son at her will and pleasure, and it was held by Dyer, Weston, and Welshe, that she took an estate in fee.
- § 14. Where a person devised in these words; I Timewell v. " give my houses in Broad Street to Mary Timewell 2 Atk. 102. for her own use, to give away at her death to whom " she pleases:" Lord Hardwicke held, that these words created an estate in fee.

§ 15. A person devised to Agnes Pearson, who was Goodtick v. his heir at law, for and during her life to be enjoyed 2Will Rep.6. by her without molestation, and, after her death, to her lawful issue; and, if she should have no issue, that she should have power to dispose thereof at her will and pleasure.

After argument at the Bar, the whole Court was clearly of opinion, that Agnes had an estate in fee-77

simple by the will, as the contingent remainder to the issue never vested. That the testator, by giving her power to dispose thereof at her will and pleasure, in case she had no issue, had given her a fee-simple.

Vide ch. 13.

§ 16. Where only an estate for life is devised in the first instance, with a power of disposing of the inheritance, there the devisee will take only an estate for life, with a power of giving the inheritance to the perfons pointed out by the will.

Cole v. Rawlinson, 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 7. \$ 17. A devise of all a person's right, title, and interest, will pass a see; as, where a woman being tenant for life of a house, remainder in tail to her son, with the reversion in see in herself, devised all her right, title, and interest in the house, to her son; it was resolved, that these words passed the reversion to the son in see.

Andrew v. Southhouse, 5 Term R. 292.

§ 18. A person devised all his part, share, and interest, of and in the estates of T.C. unto his sister for life, and, from and after her decease, he gave the same to E.S. Lord Kenyon held, that these words passed a fee; and said, there was no doubt but that the word interest "would pass a fee.

Newland v. Shephard, 2 P.Wm. 194. § 19. A person devised the residue of his real and personal estate to trustees, their heirs, executors, and administrators, in trust to pay and apply the produce and interest thereof for the maintenance and benefit of such of his grandchildren by his only daughter N. as should be living at the time of his decease, until his

said grandchildren should attain the age of 21 years, or be married; and made no farther disposition of his estate, but only directed, that, if all his trustees should die, in such case, his son-in-law N., the husband of his daughter N. should be a trustee. Lord Macclesfield said, the intention was most plain, that the grandchildren should have the surplus both of the real and personal estate, after the age of 21: for it could not be imagined, that the testator should shew a concern for his grandchildren, when they did not want it, and leave off that care at the only time when they could be supposed to stand in need of it; namely, when they came of age, and were marriageable. Besides, it was plain the testator gave all from the heir at law, by vesting the whole estate in fee, as well the legal property as the personal estate, in trustees; which would not have been done, had any thing been intended to remain to the daughter and heir. Not only the interest, but the produce, of the real and personal estate, was to be applied by such trustees: and, to help this plain intention of the testator, the word "produce" should be taken in the larger sense; and then it would fignify whatever the estate would yield by sale or other-And this case was the stronger, in regard the fon-in-law was to be a trustee in case the other trustees should all die; but it could not be intended, that the son-in-law should be a trustee for himself, or for what himself would be entitled to, should it come to his wife.

It is reported in Atkins, that Lord Hardwicke said, 3 Atk 316, he could see no reason to approve of this case; but it Vol. VI.

has been admitted as an authority in two subsequent cases.

Peat v. Powell, Amb. 387. § 20. Giles Powell devised all the rest, residue, and remainder of his real and personal estate, to two trustees, in trust for his younger son Giles, till he attained 21, and then the trust was to cease. Lord Keeper Henley, after taking time for consideration, delivered his opinion, that Giles was intended to have the whole beneficial interest in the residue of the real and personal estate; and that the trust was to continue only during his minority. That it was the same as if the testator had said, "I give the estate to trustees, in "trust for Giles, till he attain 21, and then to Giles and his heirs." That Shephard v. Newland, 2 P. Wms. 194, was a much stronger case.

Challenger v. Shephard, 8 Term Rep. 597. § 21. Upon a case sent out of Chancery for the opinion of the Court of King's Bench, the sacts were; a person devised to trustees and their heirs a certain estate, in trust for Joan the wise of John Pippet, and James her son; one moiety of the profits to be applied by the trustees to the separate use of the said Joan, and the other moiety to be laid up, or otherwise improved, till the said James should arrive at his age of 21 years. And his will was, that if the said Joan should die during the minority of the said James, the trustees should lay up the increase and profits of the mother's moiety for the benefit of her son; and after the decease of the said Joan, should permit and suffer the said James to enter upon and enjoy the whole, as soon as he attained the age of 21 years.

It was infished, that James Pippet took only an estate for life, because no words of inheritance were added to the devise to him: that the argument drawn from the cases in Peere Williams and Ambler, that the beneficial interest which the devisee took, was coextensive with the legal interest devised to the trustees, was untenable; because it tended to shew, that in all cases where an estate was given to trustees and their heirs, in trust, the cestuique trust must take a see. estate of the cestuique trust was not to be measured by the estate devised to the trustees, and a contrary doctrine had at all times prevailed, namely, that the heir at law takes whatever is not expressly devised away from him. It was said in reply, that it was not necessary to contend that the heir at law would take whatever was not devised away from him, because here the fee was expressly given to the trustees, and, by that devise, the testator had manifested his intention that the heir at law should not take. Then, if the estate did not descend to the heir at law, the question was, to whom it was devised? and the two cases cited from Peere Williams and Ambler, shewed, that the law had already put a construction on a will framed like the present, and had said, that the cestuique trust should take a beneficial interest in the whole that was devised to the trustees. The Court of King's Bench gave no opinion when the case was argued, but certified, that John Pippet took a beneficial interest in fee.

§ 22. Where the introductory clause prefixed to a devise of real estate shews, that the testator intended to depart with his whole property, the subsequent words

Effect of an Introductory Clause. will, if possible, be construed so as to pass an estate in see, and to prevent an intestacy, as to any part of his property.

Ibbetson v. Beckwith, Forrest Rep. 157.

Frogmorton, v. Holyday, 3 Bur. 1618. S 23. A testator began his will in these words: "As touching my worldly estate, wherewith it has pleased "God to bless me, I give, devise, and dispose of the same in the following manner." He then gave to his mother all his estate at N, with all his goods and chattels, as they then stood, for her natural life, and to his nephew T. D. after her death, if he would but change his name. If he did not, then he gave him only 20 l. a year, to be paid him for his life out of N. Close, and the farm held at R., which he gave her upon his nephew's refusing to change his name, to her and her heirs for ever. It was decreed by Lord Talbot, that the nephew took an estate in see; for the intent plainly appeared to pass the inheritance.

Frogmorton v. Wright, 3 Will. Rep. 414. Infra, ch. 13. § 24. The determination, in this case, was not entirely sounded on the force of the introductory clause: and, in some modern cases, the courts have refused, in the construction of a will, to connect the introductory clause with that which contained the devise.

Effect of the Word "Estate." Tit. 1. s. 18. 1 Inst. 345 4.

§ 25. As the word "eftate" fignifies such an interest as the tenant hath therein, so that, if a man grants all his estate in Dale to A. and his heirs, every thing which he can possibly grant will pass thereby; it has been long established by analogy from this principle, that, in a will, the words, "all my estate," pass a fee-simple.

§ 26. A person devised to his wife his whole estate, paying debts and legacies. Adjudged, that the wife took a fee by force of the words, "my whole estate:" for these words extended to his land, according to the common parlance, and also to all his estate in the land.

Johnson v. 1 Roll. Ab.

§ 27. In the case of Bridgewater v. Bolton it was Ante ch. 10. resolved, that the fee-simple of the rents passed, or a least the whole estate of the devisor therein; for "all his estate" was a description of his fee. In pleading a fee-simple, no more is said than, seisitus in dominico suo, ut de feodo: and, in formedon or other action, it a fee-simple be alledged, it is said, cujus statum the demandant has now.

§ 28. A person having copyhold estates which he Lane v. had surrendered to the use of his will, devised in these words-" All other my estate of what nature soever " I give to my wife Joan, whom I make my executrix " to pay my debts and legacies therewith." Resolved that the inheritance passed.

2 Show. 388.

§ 29. In the case of Shaw v. Bull, Lord Ch. Just. 12 Mod. 596. Trever said—" In the construction of wills generally, "the words, my estate, the residue of my estate, or, "the overplus of my estate, may well pass an inhees ritance, where the intent is apparent to pass it. But such intent to carry an inheritance by such "words must be very apparent, and necessary to be "drawn from the words of the will, and circumstances of the case. For if the words be indifferent to " real R_3

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xi. § 29-31.

- er real and personal estate, or may be applied to per-
- " fonal alone, there the heir at law is not to be disin
- herited by the implication of fuch words, or by
- any implication at all, but what is a necessary one."

Barry v.
Edgeworth,
2 P.Wms.
523.

§ 30. A person devised all her land in Upper Catesby, with all their appurtenances, to W. Edgeworth. The Master of the Rolls decreed, that the devisee took a fee; because it had long been settled that the word "estate" was sufficient in a will to pass a fee.

Bailis v. Gale, 2 Ves. R. 48.

§ 31. A testator devised to his wife, all that estate he bought of *Mead*, for so long as she should live; and in another clause says—" I give to my son C. G. " all that estate I bought of *Mead*, after the death of " my wife."—The question was, whether C. G. took an estate in see or not.

Lord Hardwicke—" This case arises on a subject, which admits of a very large field; and on which there is a variety of cases, and a variety in those cases, as to the extent and force courts of law and equity have given to particular words in wills, on which this question has arisen. But there is no doubt at all, as to the present case; and, as to what was thrown out, of favour in cases of this kind to an heir at law, it is to be laid out of the case; because by this will (whatever is the construction) the heir is disinherited certainly; which is clearly shewn to be intended by the sweeping devise of all his real estate.

"On the first question I am of opinion that both the thing itself, and the estate, property, and inte-" rest, the testator had, passed by the devise. Several questions have arisen in courts of law and equity on " devises of this kind; but all the latter determina-"tions have extended, and leaned as much as possible, " to make words of this kind comprehend, not only "the thing given, but also the estate and interest the testator had therein; and for a very plain reason. ⁶⁶ It commonly happened in wills made by the testator "himself, being inops consilii, not conusant of the " law; of which kind this will is: and, when it is " so, it is well known, that when one gives, especi-" ally among his children, such and such lands, de-" fcribing the lands only, he most commonly means "the fee-simple of it; unless where he gives it for 66 life. Where he means to give a thing only for a of particular interest, as for life or years, common " sense points out to add those limiting words: and "the generality of people, giving without such limi-" tation, mean to give it absolutely, though the word " beirs, or such words are not added. Where words " of limitation are not added, the law is so tied down, "that the rule is, it can give only an estate for life; " but most frequently that is contrary to the intent of "the testator, especially when it is among children; " but the law cannot help it; it must be so pursued, " and it is better that should be so, than the rule "broke in upon. But, in the last cases, the court "has endeavoured to make "estate" amount to a "devise of the whole interest, unless some words 66 restraining or limiting that general sense. Accordic ing R 4

"ing to Lord Holt, "eftate" is admitted to be fuffi-"cient to make a description, not only of the land, but of the interest in the land. But it is objected "the pronoun my is not added; there was no occasion "for it. It was necessary he should use such words, so as point out the whole interest he had in the land, "which is sufficiently done by the other words: for " he bought of Mead the land, and the fee-simple in "the land, which is agreeable to the construction of "the word "estate;" being sufficient to describe the "thing and the interest therein, as it is in the case of " all my estate. As to the objection from the devise to the wife, he did not intend a fee there: but that is no argument, that he did not intend the word " estate" to comprise, not only the thing, but the "interest and property in the thing. Persons, not "knowing the law, know when to add a restriction " to what they give: therefore, his adding that to "his wife's devise, shews, he was apprehensive this " word "estate" would pass the whole, otherwise; and rather confirms and strengthens the subsequent " clause. But another argument may be drawn on "this will; that the testator is dividing his estate " among his wife and children; and it is inconceiv-" able he should intend to give the provision, he meant for his fon Charles, by a reversion for life, after the death of his wife, which greatly strengthens " the construction of all these wills; and on this rea-" fon I am of opinion, this is stronger than Ibbetson v. " Beckwith: for there was a locality described, which " is what makes the obligation to this large construc-It makes no difference, whether it is "all

my

Ante. s. 23.

- es my estate at Northwich close," or all the estate; for " it must be construed with a videlicet, which is as " local; and this is a devise of the same kind " exactly."
- S 32. A person, being seised in see of a house and land at Braywick in the county of Berks, devised the same in the words following—" I give and bequeath to Mrs. Martin my estate at Braywick, Berks."-It was contended, that these words did not pass a fee, for want of the word "all:" but the court held that the devisee took a fee.

Holdfaft v. 1 Term R.

- § 33. The word "eftates" is considered as equivalent to the word "estate;" unless other words are added to express a different intention.
- § 34. A person, seised of shares in the corn-market Fletcher v. of the city of London, devised to his nephew the income of his shares in the corn-market, for his natural 656. life; and all the rest of his estates, with all monies in the stocks, &c. to be divided in equal shares to Elizabeth Snow, &c. share and share alike. It was resolved. that the last clause comprehended the reversion of the shares in the corn-market, and carried the absolute inheritance in them to the devisees Elizabeth Snow, &c.

§ 35. The words "testamentary estate" will also pass an estate in fee-simple, where there is an introductory clause, indicating an intention to dispose of all the testator's property.

Smith v. Coffin, 2 H. Black. R. 444.

§ 36. Where the word "estate" is used only for the purpose of describing the local situation of the lands devised, it will not have the effect of passing an estate in see, as will be shewn in a subsequent chapter.

All the reft

and refidue of

my Estate.

Ch. 13.

§ 37. The words, "All the rest and residue of my real and personal estate," will in most cases be deemed sufficient to pass an estate in see-simple.

Murray v. Wise, Prec. in Cha. 264. 2 Vern. 564. § 38. A. devised 50 l. to his heir at law, and then gave all the rest and residue of his real and personal estate to his wife. It was decreed that the wife took an estate in see-simple in the real estates of the testator.

Beachcroft v. Beachcroft, 2 Vern. 690. S 39. A will was worded thus:—" I do by this my will dispose of such worldly estate, as it hath pleased God to bestow on me. First, I will that all my debts be paid and discharged; and, out of the remainder of my estate, I give and bequeath unto my wife 300%. My mind is, that my wife have one moiety of what is lest after my debts paid."—The question was, whether a moiety of the real estate passed to the wife in see, or only half the personal estate? And it was decreed, that the wife took a moiety of the real estate in see.

Farmer v. Wise, 3 P. Wms. 295. § 40. A will was made thus:—" As to all my tem" poral estate with which it has pleased God to bless
" me, I dispose of the same as follows." Then there
are several bequests; and then come these words.

" And all the rest of my estate; goods and chattels
" whatsoever, real and personal, I give to my beloved
" wife."

" wife."—Adjudged, that the words in this will were the same as if the testator had said, "I devise the rest and residue of my temporal estate," which therefore passed a see-simple.

41. § A person devised all the rest, residue, and re-Ridart v. mainder of his goods, chattels, and personal estate, together with his real estate, not therein before devised, to his wife. It was held by Lord Hardwicke, that the words, "together with my real estate," carried the land and the inheritance.

Pain, 3 Atk. 486, 1 Vef. 10,

§ 42. A person began his will thus—As to all my temporal estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me, I give and devise the same as follows—Then gave feveral legacies to A. and directed him to fell all or any part of his real and personal estate for the payment of his debts and legacies, and concluded his will with this residuary devise. - "As to all the rest of my ee goods and chattels, real and personal, moveable and immoveable, as houses, gardens, tenements, my " share in the copperas works, &c. I give to the said " A." without making use of the word estate or any words of limitation whatever,

Grayfon v. Atkinson, 1 Wilf. R. 333. 2 Vel. 51.

Lord Hardwicke doubted at first, but was afterwards clearly of opinion, as the testator had a fee, that A. took a fee.

§ 43. The words, "whatever else I have not disposed of," will pass an estate in fee.

disposed of.

Ropewell v. Ackland, 1 Salk. 239. § 44. Thus, where a person devised his manor of B. to A. and his heirs, and then proceeded: "Item, "I devise all my lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to the said A. Item, I devise all my goods and chattels, money and debts, and whatever else I have not before disposed of, to the said A. he paying my debts and legacies." Lord Ch. Just. Trevor held that, under the concluding clause, whatever he had not disposed of, an estate in see passed.

Remainder.

§ 45. If a testator devises the whole remainder of his lands, these words will pass an estate in see simple.

Norton v. Ladd, Lutw. 761. \$ 46. A person devised to his sister, and after her decease, the whole remainder of his lands to his brother, if he survived her. Adjudged, that these words could not extend to the quantity of the land, but to the quantity of estate in the land; for the whole land was given to the sister for life, so there could be no remainder of that; therefore, it must be the remainder of the estate in the land, and by consequence a see-simple passed.

Vide Jackson v. Hogan, Ante c. 10.

Reversion.

§ 47. The word reversion, is also sufficient, in most cases, to pass an estate in see-simple.

Bailis v. Gale, 2 Ves. 48. § 48. A person devised in these words.—" I give to my son C. G. the reversion of the tenement my sister now lives in, after her decease, and the reversion of those two tenements now in the possession of J. C."

Lord Hardwicke said, the word reversion passed the fee. The interest which the testator had in it was, the reversion in fee he had in himself, expectant on those leases he had granted, whether for life or for years. Reversion was a right of having the estate back again, (which created an interest) when the particular estate determined. And, according to Lutwich 761, a de- Norton v. vise of a reversion passed a see. There it was a devise Ante s. 46. of the whole remainder. Reversion was descriptive of that right of reverter by way of eminence, that was in himself, consequently there was no ground to split or divide it: for, giving the reversion gives the whole reversion, unless words are added, limiting or restraining the interest. Here also occurred another argument, from his making a division of his estate among his children, that it was extraordinary he should give his children a dry reversion, when the antecedent estate might continue longer than their lives; which strengthened the argument, that they should have as liberal a construction as the law would allow.

Vide Peiton v. Banks, 1 Vern. 65. contra.

§ 49. It is a rule, long since established in the construction of wills, that if a person gives lands to another by will, with a direction that the device shall pay a gross sum out of it, the devisee will take an n.2 estate in fee, without any other words; though the Cowp. Rep. fum directed to be paid, should not amount even to a 841. year's rent of the land. This construction is founded. on the principle, that a devise of land shall, in all cases, be intended for the benefit of the devisee; now, if a devisee was, in cases of this kind, only to take an estate for life, he might die before he received from

Devise on Condition of paying a Sum of Money. 1 Inst. 9 6.

the

the land the gross sum he had paid, and consequently be a loser by the devise.

Collier's Case, 6 Rep. 16 a. § 50. A testator devised lands to his brother, paying to one person 20 s. and to others small sums, amounting to 45 s. in all: the land was of the value of 3 l. per annum. Adjudged, that the brother took an estate in see.

Wellock v. Hammond, Cro. Eliz. 204. § 51. T.W. devised copyhold lands, of the nature of borough-English, which he had surrendered to the use of his will, to John his eldest son; paying 40 s. to each of his brothers, and sisters. Adjudged, that John took an estate in see.

Moore v. Price, 3 Keb. 49. § 52. A person devised all his estate to A. paying forty pounds a piece to his sisters. Adjudged a see-simple; and it appearing that the personal estate was not sufficient to satisfy legacies, it must consequently be intended his real estate. Besides the devisee was not executor, and therefore it could not be intended of the personal estate.

Recves v. Gower, 11 Med. 208. \$ 53. A. by his will devised lands to B. and then bequeathed legacies; and gave five pounds to C. and directed B. to pay it, but gave him two years for that purpose; and the jury sound the land to be worth fifty shillings a year.

It was adjudged that B. took a fee, for that the devise was of a sum in gross, and a debitum in prasenti, solvendum in future. And it was a sum certain to be paid

paid to B. at all adventures, whether the land yielded full five pounds or not, and so not like the cases where the sum devised was to arise out of profits

\$ 54. A devise of lands, charged with the payment of debts and legacies, will, for the same reason, pass an estate in see simple.

Devise charged with Debts and Legacies.

S 55. A person devised to his brother Richard, all his lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and whatever else he had in the world, and made him executor; desiring him to pay his debts and legacies. Adjudged on a special verdict, that the devisee took an estate in see.

Ackland v. Ackland, 2 Vern. 687.

§ 56. A. seised of lands in see made his will, and gave his cousin B. 201. to be paid out of his lands within one year; and after other legacies he gave all his lands to Richard generally. Adjudged that Richard took an estate in see.

Freak v. Lee, 2 Show. R. 38.

\$ 57. A will was made in these words. "All the rest, residue, and remainder of my messuages, lands,

Doe v. Richards, 3 Term R.

- tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, and perfonal estate whatsoever, my legacies and funeral
- " expences being thereout paid, I give, devise, and
- we bequeath unto my fifter J. D.; and constitute and
- " appoint her my executrix, and refiduary legatee of
- " this my will."

Lord Kenyon said, That the first words alone were not sufficient in law to carry a see; but that he relied

on the words immediately following, "my legacies and "funeral expences being thereout paid," as sufficient for that purpose; for the fund, which was to answer those demands, ought to be as ample as possible. Those charges extended to, and were to be taken out of, the property which was before given to the residuary legatee: and, if that devise did not comprise the whole of the devisor's estate, the interest as well as the land, the legacies and funeral expences might not be paid.

Vide Moore v. Denn, infra ch. 13.

Doe v. Holmes, 8 Term R. 1.

§ 58. A person devised in these words, "I give and bequeath my freehold house, with the appurtenances, &c. and all the furniture thereto belonging, to Elizabeth Gibson, whom I make executrix of this my last will, she paying all my just debts and funeral expences and legacies before mentioned, twelve months after my death. I likewise leave to the said E. Gibson all the rest and residue of my personal estate," &c. The Judge before whom the cause was tried being of opinion that the devisee took a fee by reason of the latter words in the devise, " she paying all my debts," non-suited the plaintiff: And on a motion to fet aside that non-fuit; Lord Kengon faid; " I am "clearly of " opinion that the direction given at the trial was per-" fectly right. In cases of this kind, the question has " always been, whether the charge is to be paid only our of the rents and profits of the estate, or whether " it is to be paid by the devisee at all events; in the " former case the devisee only takes an estate for life, but in the latter he takes a fee: otherwise he might " be whoser by the devise. Here the devisee is bound " to pay the debts and legacies at all events, and the " charge

- charge is thrown on her in respect of the real estate.
- The personalty is given to her by the next clause in
- the will."

S 59: A person devised in these words, "All the Goodtitle v. rest I have in the world, both houses, lands, goods

and chattels, stock in trade, and all other things

that belong or may belong to me, I give to my

present wife Joan Pascoe, my executrix, so that she

thall fell my stock in trade, and household goods;

and if these will not pay the debts, she sell next

the house of see in Penzance, and not Prospednick;

fo that my executrix shall pay in good time all law-

" ful debts, that shall appear."

Lord Ellenborough said, it was clear that the executrix and residuary legatee took a see in the premises in question; for she was charged with payment of all the debts, and the had the land devised to her, as well as the personal estate, all in the same clause, in order to enable her to satisfy that charge. And she could not have less than a fee in it, because she was empowered to fell it, which she could not do without having the fee. As to what was faid in the will, relative to the fale of the stock in trade and household goods in the first instance, for payment of debts, and if those were not sufficient, then the house in Penzance; that was merely directory to her, to apply the personalty first for payment of debts, before the realty, which was no more than what the law directs in the common case. distinction turned in all the cases on this, whether the debts, &c. were merely a charge on the estate devised, Voz. VL

4 East 496

258

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xi. § 59-63.

Vide Denn v. Miller, infra ch. 13. or a charge on the device himself, in respect of such estate in his hands. Judgment that the device took an estate in see.

Devise charged with an annual Pay-ment for ever.

\$ 60. Where lands are devised, with a direction that the devisee shall make a perpetual annual payment thereout, the devisee will take an estate in see, without any other words: for otherwise he could not suffil the intention of the testator.

Shailard v. Baker, Cro.Eliz.744. § 61. A. devised lands to C. a younger son, and willed that C. should pay annually to his eldest son B. and his heirs, three pounds. Resolved, that this was an estate in see.

Webb v. Hearing, Cro. Jac. 415. § 62. Lands were devised to J. and S. and they were to pay yearly to the Company of Merchant Taylors in London 61. 10 s. It was resolved, that the devisees took a see simple, by reason of the annual payment, without any regard to the greatness or smallness of the sum: besides, as the charge continued for ever, the estate must continue so too; for, without the estate the charge could not be.

Smith v. Tindal, 2 Salk. 685. 11 Mod. 102. § 63. A person devised sour coats to sour boys of the parish of D. for ever, and all his lands, tenements, and hereditaments, and all his personal estate to his wife, and her assigns. Adjudged, that the wife had a see simple, because she took the lands with a perpetual charge.

§ 64. A devise, upon condition of paying an annual Tum to a third person, during his life, will give the devisee an estate in fee simple; for, otherwise, the annuity might cease before the death of the person, to whom it was given.

Devise charged with an annual Payment for life.

§ 65. A person devised lands to A. B. conditionally Lee v. that he should allow to his son Nicholas, meat, drink, apparel, washing, and lodging, during his natural life.

2 Show. 49-

It was argued that this was a fee simple for Nicholas had no manner of provision else, but only an allowance of meat and drink. It was plain the testator designed the maintenance to be for Nicholas's own life, and not that when A. B. should die Nicholas should starve, and therefore it was clear that A. B. must have a larger estate than for his own life, for otherwise instead of having a benefit by the will, he would be damaged and prejudiced by it, if he should perform the testator's will. It was adjudged by all the court that A. B. took an estate in fee simple.

§ 66. John Thatcher, being seised of certain houses, Reed v. demised them to his son Robert, upon condition that he should pay unto his two sisters five pounds a year, with a clause of entry for non-payment. The court was of opinion that a legacy or devise is always for the benefit of the party; so that it is reasonable to make such construction of the will, that he may have no possibility of a loss: for, if there be a devise to one upon condition that he pay a sum of money, if there be a possibility of a loss, though not very probable, it

2 Mod. 25.

shall be construed a fee. And therefore the estate in this case, being limited to Robert, and charged with payments to the sisters during their lives, plainly proved the intent of the testator was, that the devisee should have an estate in see simple. And judgement was given accordingly.

Goodright v. Allin, 2 Black R. 1041. § 67. A person having a copyhold estate which he had surrendered to the use of his will, after giving several legacies, gave to Mary Ramsey the just sum of 20 s. a year for and during her natural life, to be paid by his executors. He also gave to his kinsman Thomas Allin all his two yard lands, with his house and homestead, with the appurtenances; and all the residue and remainder of his goods, chattels, debts, mortgages, leases, and personal estate, he gave to the said Thomas Allin, he paying his debts, legacies, and funeral expences, and made the said Allin executor.

The question was, whether the devise to Thomas Allin was a devise for life or in fee.

Lord Ch. Just. De Grey said, he thought the real estate devised to Allin was in see simple, and that upon two grounds. 1st, By implication, not indeed a necessary implication strictly and mathematically speaking; but so far necessary as it clearly arose from the reasonable construction of the will. The annuity was given to Mary Ramsey for her natural life to be paid by his executor, which being of an uncertain duration must have an estate in see to support it. 2d, All the several devises to Allin sollowed each other immediately,

diately, and must therefore be construed as one clause; fo that the payment of debts and legacies was charged on the real as well as the personal estate. The other judges concurred.

§ 68. Thomas Ives, being seised of a house, and of Biddeley v. two copyhold tenements, and having a daughter and several children, made his will, and devised the house to Clement Boreham for his life, paying thereout 40 s. a year to Robert Boreham, the testator's grandson, and after Clement Boreham's decease, to be equally divided between R. S. and J. Boreham: and he gave his two copyhold tenements to Sarah Boreham, she paying thereout 40 s. a year to her sister Elizabeth Boreham.

Lopping well, 2 Burr. 1531. Wilmot 223.

Mr. Justice Wilmot observed, that the construction of this will, like all others, depended on the intention of the testator; and that, in this case, the intention of the testator was to be collected, first from the devise to Clement Boreham, and then from the devise to Sarah Boreham. He devises expressly to Clement, for and during the term of his natural life, and after his decease to Robert Sabill and Jeremiah Boreham; but, in the devise to Sarah, he omits the words," " for and during her natural life;" which it must be supposed he would have inferted, in case he had intended only to give her an estate for life, because he had just before done so in the preceding-devise to Clement. plain that, by giving it her generally, without adding any fuch restrictive words as he had before added to his devise to Clement, he meant to give her the absolute property. He meant to devise it ut bona et catalla, as

a man unacquainted with the law might naturally do: and his making no limitation over in this devise to Sarah was an additional proof of his intention to give it to her absolutely. But the material circumstance was, the condition he had annexed to her estate, of paying an annuity to her sister Elizabeth Boreham. It was objected, that he had expressly directed the 40 s. a year to be paid "thereout:" and it was urged, that this was equivalent to making it payable out of the rents and profits. And he thought it was so; therefore, this was not to be considered as a charge of a payment of a sum of money in gross; but, by a subsequent clause, he gave 40 l., to wit 20 l. a piece to two other grand-daughters absolutely. Therefore, he probably meant that his grand-daughter Elizabeth Boreham should have her 40 s. a year upon the same foot; and ' that the provision he had thought proper to make for her, should be a lasting one, to continue during her life, and not that she should be left to starve in case her sister Sarab should happen to die before her; and consequently he must have intended that the annuity, which Sarah was to pay to her fifter Elizabeth, should be an annuity during the life of Elizabeth: and, if so, then it followed that this charge of 40s. a year to Elizabeth was just the same thing as devising an annuity to her, though it was put in the form of a condition. And Mr. Ashburst very candidly admitted, that, if this was an annuity for life to Elizabeth, it would make it a devise in fee to Sarah: and, as this could not be effectuated without construing the inheritance to be given to Sarab, it raises a very violent presumption, Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. zi. § 68-70.

presumption, that the testator intended her an estate of inheritance.

The judges were all of opinion, that the devisee took an estate in fee.

§ 69. A testator began thus:—" As touching all fuch temporal estate," &c.; and then devised a house to his grandson, paying yearly and every year out of the said dwelling-house, the sum of 15s. to his grand-daughter.

Goodright v. Stocker, 5 Term R. 13.

Lord Kenyon Chief Justice.—" Though the general introductory words used in this will, would have some effect in the construction of the subsequent devises, as was said by Lord Talbot in a case before him, they Ibbetson v. would not of themselves have carried the see. But it has been very properly admitted, that the words, " pay-" ing yearly and every year," are sufficient for that purpose. That annuity was intended to continue during the grand-daughter's life, though it is not so expressly mentioned; and, therefore, of necessity, the grandson must take an estate in see."

B ckwith.

§ 70. The following case was sent out of Chancery, Andrew v. for the opinion of the Court of King's Bench: A person devised certain estates to her sister for life; and, 292. after her decease, she gave the same to E. Southouse, charged and chargeable nevertheless with the payment of an annuity of 20 l. to J. T. for and during the term of his natural life. The court was of opinion, that E. Soutbouse took an estate in see: and Lord Kenyon \$ 4 observed,

Southouse,

Infra ch. 13. observed, that the determination in Ansley v. Chapman, Cro. Car. 157, was founded on more limited grounds than on those adopted in modern times.

Exception.—
Where the
Charge is on
the Rents
and Profits.

§ 71. Where lands are devised, with a direction that the devisee shall pay a gross sum of money, or an annual sum, out of the rents and profits of the lands, the devisee will take only an estate for life. The cases on this point will be stated in a subsequent chapter.

Devise to Trustees for Purposes requiring a Fee. Shaw v. Wright, 1Ab. Eq. 176. \$ 72. If lands are devised to trustees, for the purpose of performing any particular trusts, which require that the trustees should have the fee-simple, an estate in see will pass to them, without any words of limitation: for there is no difference between a devise to a man and his heirs for ever, and a devise to a man, upon trusts which may continue for ever.

Gibson v.
Montfort,
1 Vel. 485.

§ 73. A person gave all and singular his freehold, leasehold, copyhold, and also his personal estate, of what kind soever, to trustees and their executors, administrators, and assigns, in trust to and for several uses, to pay several annuities, sums, and legacies, by and out of the produce of the personal estate: if that should happen to be desicient, then to pay the same by and out of the rents, issues, and profits, arising by the real estate. One of the questions in this case was, whether the trustees took an estate in see-simple under this devise? Lord Hardwicke was of opinion, that the inheritance was devised to trustees; and said, it had often been determined that, in a devise to trustees, it was not necessary the word "beirs" should be inserted,

ferted, to carry the fee at law: for, if the purposes of the trust could not be satisfied without having a fee, courts of law would so construe it, as in Shaw v. Antes. 72. Wright, and in several other cases. Here were purposes to be answered, which by possibility (and that was sufficient) could not be answered, without the trustees having a fee; viz. the paying of several annuities, and large pecuniary legacies, if the personal estate was desicient, which would probably be the case. Then, how was the rest to be raised; barely by the rents and profits? It must be so, if it was a chattel interest: for, then, it could not be taken out of the estate by anticipation; but that could not be in this case; for, if the pecuniary legacies were not paid out of the personal, the real must be sold to satisfy them; for several of them were to be paid within a year after the testator's death, and could not therefore be paid by annual perception. This, then, was a purpose which it was impossible to serve, unless the trustees had the inheritance: for, if they were to sell a fee, they must have a fee.

§ 74. George Beaumont devised several sums of 31. a year, some for life, and some in see, and added; "these legacies to be faithfully paid by my trustee, "John Cooke, every year." He also left to his trustee and executor 5 1. to build a tomb for him, he and his heirs always to see that it was kept in order; and appointed the faid John Cooke his sole executor and trus-The court was of opinion, that all the estate of the testator passed to the trustee in see; because the intention was clear, that he meant to devise his real estate

Oates y, Cooke, 3 Bur.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. xi. \$ 74-79.

estate in trust: and there were trusts to be executed, which the trustee could not effectuate, without having an estate in see devised to him; for there were annuities in fee charged on the real estate, and the estate must be co-extensive with the charges.

Vide infra. ch. 14.

266

§ 75. Where only an estate for life is devised in the first instance, and there is a subsequent devise to the heirs of the devisee in fee, he will take an estate in fee.

A general Devile paffes the whole Interest in a

§ 76. In the case of chattels real, a general devise will pass all the estate and interest of the devisor.

Chattel. Fenton v. Foster, Dyer 307 6.

§ 77. The termor of a messuage for 40 years, devised and gave the messuage by his will, without any words of limitation. It was resolved, that the entire term passed, for the devisee could not have any estate in the house at will, or for term of life, or for the term of any years, or a year; therefore, the whole term passed.

Tit. 8. c. 1. f. 18.

§ 78. A disposition of a term for years to a person and the heirs of his body, is a disposal of the entire interest in the term; for a term cannot be intailed. But a devise over of a term after a prior disposition of it to a person for life, is good by way of executory devise; of which, an account will be given in a subsequent chapter.

Infra ch. 19.

§ 79. It is faid by Lord Chancellor Parker, that a 1 P. Wm. 666. devise of a term to one for a day, or an hour, is a devise 14

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xi. \$ 79,80.

wife of the whole term, if the limitation over is void, and it appears at the same time that the whole is intended to be disposed of from the executors. But if such an intention does not appear, then it has been held that a limitation of a term to one for life, does not vest the whole so absolutely in him as to be at his disposal, but leaves a possibility (viz. upon the death of the devisee within the term) of reverter in the executors of the testator.

Fearne Ex. Dev. 378.

§ 80. A. possessed of a term for 99 years, devised it to B. for life, remainder to C. for life, and so on to five others successively for life. It was resolved, that after the death of the seven persons to whom the term was devised for life, it should revert to the executors of the testator.

Eyres v. Faulkland, 1 Salk. 278.

TITLE XXXVIIL

DEVISE

CHAP. XII.

Construction.—What Words create an Estate Tail.

- § 1. Any Words denoting an Intention to give an Estate Tail.
 - 5. Heirs qualified by subsequent Words.
- 18. Devise to A. and bis beirs with a Remainder over to a collateral Heir.
- 24. The Words Issue, Children, &c.
- 30. An Estate Tail may arise by Implication.
- 34. A Devise generally may be enlarged into an Estate Tail.
- 42. A Devise for Life may be enlarged into an Estate Tail.

Section 1.

Any words denoting an Intention to give an Estate Tail.

1 Inst. 9 b.
1 Vent. 228.

As lands may be devised in see without any of those technical words which are required in deeds, so may they be devised in tail. And therefore a devise to a person, et semini suo, or to a man and his wise, et bæredi de corpore et uni bæredi tantum, gives an estate tail.

Cro. Eliz. 3:4. § 2. It was agreed by the judges of the King's Bench in 36 Eliz. that a devise to one and the heir of his body, was an estate tail; and should go to all the heirs of his body: for "heir" was nomen collectivum, and one can have but one heir at one time, and this should go from heir to heir.

§ 3. A devise to J. S., and his heirs male, passes only an estate tail; though in a deed these words would create an estate in fee, as the word "male" would be rejected.

Bakery. Wall, 1 Ld. Raym. 185.

Tit. 28. c. 24. f. 20,

§ 4. A person devised a messuage and lands to her Doev. Fyldes, eldest daughter Alice, and the heirs of her body, lawfully to be begotten, for ever; remainder to her other daughters in the same manner, remainder to her own right heirs for ever, charged and chargeable with the full sum of nine score pounds, to be levied and raised out of the first clear annual and yearly issues and profits of the said messuages &c. and that her executors should stand possessed of the said messuage for so long a time, as until they should raise the said sum; and to and for the benefit of her daughters Anne, Margaret, and Judith (to whom she had given the money) until the same should be paid by her eldest daughter Alice or her heirs; and, from and after the raising thereof by Alice or her heirs, it was her will that she and her heirs should enjoy the said messuages, &c. for ever. It was resolved that, as the words of the devise created an estate tail, the charge on the lands, and the subsequent use of the words "heirs of Alice Scofield," should be construed to refer to the special designation of the heirs, to whom the estate was devised at the beginning of the will; and therefore that Alice took only an estate tail. And Lord Mansfield observed there never was an instance of an estate in see raised by implication from the circumstance of a charge being made by the devisor, where

Cowp. 833.

Vide Denn v. an express estate for life or in tail was given, and here slater, infra. it was an estate tail, with several remainders over.

Heirs qualified by subsequent Words. \$ 5. Although a devise to a man and his heirs gives him an estate in see simple, yet if the word "beirs" is qualified by any subsequent words, which shew the intention of the testator to restrain them to the heirs of the body of the devisee, the devise will, in that case, create only an estate tail.

Clache's Case, Dyer 330 b.

§ 6. A man devised lands to A. his daughter and her heirs; and, if she died without issue in the lifetime of her sister B., that it should remain to B. and her heirs. This was held by three justices to be an estate tail: Dyer held that A. had a fee simple conditional. The opinion of the three judges in this case has, however, been consirmed by several subsequent determinations.

Soulle v. Gerrard, Cro. Eliz. 525. § 7. Richard Baker devised to Richard, one of his sons, and his heirs for ever; and, if Richard died without issue, or within the age of twenty-one years, then the land should be divided equally amongst his three other sons. Adjudged, that the devisee took as estate tail.

Browne v. Jerves, Cro. Jac. 290.

S. William Browne being seised in see, devised all his lands to John his son and his heirs, and if he died without issue he devised his lands in Reculver to Mathew his nephew in see, and his lands in Ham to Henry his nephew in see.

It was resolved that the first limitation to John was, as to him and the heirs of his body, and no fee.

S 9. William Goldwell seised of lands in fee, devised Dutton v. them to his wife for life, and after her death to John Cro. Ja. 427. his eldest son and to his heirs, upon condition that he, as foon as the land should come to him in possession, should grant to Stephen his second fon and his heirs, an annual rent of four pounds out of the said tenements; and that if the faid John died without heirs of his body, that the land should remain to the said Stephen and the heirs of his body. The first question was, whether John had an estate in see by the devise, which was to him and his heirs, upon condition that he should grant a rent to Stephen and his heirs, whereby the intent was shewn that he should have a fee, otherwife he could not legally grant fuch a rent, to have continuance after his death.

But it was resolved to be an estate tail, for being limited, that if he died without issue then it should be to Stephen and the heirs of his body, that shewed what heirs of John were intended, viz. heirs of his body. But yet by the limitation of the will, he was to make a grant of the rent, which being by appointment of the donor, it was not contra formam donationis, but stood with the gift, and should bind the issue in tail.

§ 10. W. Hydes, having two fons Thomas and Francis, devised all his lands to his wife for life; and, after her decease, then he devised his lands in B. to Thomas his fon, and his heirs for ever, and his lands

Chaddock v. Cowley, Cro. Ja. 695. in E. L. to Francis his son and his heirs for ever; adding the following words. "Item, I will that the survivor of them shall be heir to the other, if either of them die without issue."

It was resolved that this was an estate tail, and that although the first part of the will gave a see, the second part corrected it, and made it but an estate tail.

Brice v. Smith, Willes 1. § 11. A person gave and devised all his freehold messuage, &c. to his son P. B. and his heirs, for ever, on condition that he should pay his son W. B. 30 l. Then followed this clause: "Item, my will and mind is, that in case any of my said children, unto whom I have bequeathed any of my real estates, shall die without issue, then I give the estate of him or them so dying unto his or their right heirs for ever."

Lord Chief Justice Willes' delivered the opinion of the court and said, the question was, whether P. B. the devise took an estate in see or in tail? And this was divided into two questions: 1st, Whether he would have had an estate tail in case the remainder had been devised over to a stranger? 2d, Whether devising it over to the right heirs of the person so dying without issue made any difference. As to the first question, it could not be doubted, after so many solemn determinations, that if a man devises an estate to A. and his heirs, and, aftewards, in his will, gives his estate to another, in case A. dies without issue, the subsequent words reduce A.'s estate only to an estate tail, and restrain the general word "beirs" to signify only heirs

of the body. And this is founded upon these known rules, that the intention of the testator shall always take place, in the construction of wills, so far as it can be collected from the will itself, and if it be not contrary to the rules of law: and that the priority or posteriority of words in a will was not at all regarded, but that the whole will must be taken together, to find out the intent of the testator. 2d, But this distinction was relied on, that, though it would have this construction in case the remainder had been devised over to a stranger, it would be otherwise in the present case, because the remainder was devised over to the heirs of the person so dying without issue. But this distinction, though it seemed at first to be of some weight, when considered, made no difference, either in reason or Even in grants, where words are construed much stricter than in the case of a will, if there were words that created an estate tail, the grantee would have an estate tail, though the next remainder was limited to his heirs; and nothing was more common in settlements, than to limit an estate to a man and the heirs of his body, remainder to his right heirs; and for this plain reason, to prevent his disinheriting his issue, except by some solemn act done in his lifetime. court was unanimously of opinion, that the device took an estate tail.

S 12. It is observed by Mr. Durnford, in a note to this case, that, by the words "die without issue," the devisor must have meant, dying without heirs of the body, or without heirs generally. But, to suppose that he used those words in the latter sense, would be to Yol. VI.

fuppose that he intended to devise the lands to his son P. B. and his heirs for ever; and, if he die without such heirs, then to the same heirs. There seemed, therefore, less doubt in such a case, respecting the devisor's intention, than in the ordinary case of a limitation over to a stranger, after a dying without issue by the first taker.

Fitzgerald v. Leslie, 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 154. § 13. James Leslie devised lands to the use of his eldest son John Leslie and his heirs for ever; and failing issue of his said son John, then to the use of his second son James and his heirs for ever; and, failing issue of that son, then to the use of his third son George and his heirs for ever; and, failing issue of that son, then to the use of every other son that he should have and their heirs for ever; and, failing issue male, then to his issue semale and their heirs for ever; and, for want of issue, then to his heirs for ever. Adjudged by the House of Lords, that, according to the intention of the testator, his sons took successively an estate in tail male; and that, upon the death of the eldest son leaving only a daughter, the second son took in the order of succession.

Dena v. Shenton, Cowp. 410. § 14. A will was as follows:—" I give to my grandson Samuel Shenton all my meadow, &c. to hold unto the said Samuel Shenton and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and their heirs for ever, chargeable with the payment of 8 l a year to my niece, &c.; but, in case the said Samuel Shenton shall die without leaving issue of his body, then I give

"I give the said meadow, &c. unto my nephew " W. G."

The question was, whether Samuel Shenton took an estate in fee, or an estate tail? It was contended, that the testator meant that the issue of Samuel should take an estate in fee; and that the devise over was in the event of Samuel's dying without issue at the time of his death, by which means, it would be an executory devise?

Lord Mansfield.—" The question is, whether the e grandson took an estate tail or an estate in see? "Now, the devise is to Samuel Shenton and the heirs " of his body, and their heirs for ever." But the " words, " their heirs for ever," are qualified by the " subsequent words, " in case he shall die without leav-" ing issue," which clearly shew it to be an estate tail; and then the testator gives it over to the lessor of the " plaintiff. It is too clear to admit of a doubt."

§ 15. J. Beech devised to his wife for life, and, after Roe v. Avis, her decease, "to be equally divided between his four 4 Term R. " children, H., I., E., and S., and to each of them and their heirs for ever, share and share alike. And " in case they should be minded and agree among "themselves to sell the said estate, then every one of 66 his said children should have their equal shares of of monies from thence arising: but if they consented and agreed to keep the estate whole together, then, es and in such case, all the rents, issues, and profits thereof, from time to time, as they should become « due T 2

- " due and payable, should be equally paid and di-
- " vided between his four children, and to the several
- " and respective heirs of them on their bodies lawfully
- " begotten, share and share alike."

The Court said, that the children of J. Beech took only estates tail in the respective sourths: for, though it was given to them and their heirs, and they had also a power of selling the estates by the sormer part of the devise, yet the subsequent words, "to the several and respective heirs of them on their bodies lawfully begotten," restrained the operation of the sormer words, and reduced the estate devised to an estate tail.

Doe v. Rivers,
7 Term R.
276.

S 16. W. Fifield by will, after confirming his fettlement, by which one part of the estate was settled on his wife for life, devised the rest of the premises to his daughter and only child Mary, on her attaining 21, and to her heirs: and as to that part which was settled on his wife, he devised the same to his said daughter after the death of his widow. In case the widow should die before the daughter attained 21, then he willed that both parts of the estate should go immediately to his daughter and her heirs for ever; but he willed that his wife should hold and enjoy both parts until his daughter should attain the age of ar; and, in case his daughter should die without issue, then he empowered her to dispose of the whole by will, or any other instrument in writing; and for want of such issue and direction, &c. then that the same should descend and go to his own right heirs.

The

The court was of opinion, that the daughter took. an estate tail only.

§ 17. A person devised to her son Richard and her Doe v. Whidaughter Elizabeth, and their heirs for ever, provided Rep. 211. that, if her said son and daughter should both have issue, then both their dividends aforesaid were to go to the issue of their own bodies; but if but one of them should have issue, then the premises should go to that iffue, whether it were the child of her fon or daughter aforesaid; but if they both died without issue of their own bodies, then immediately to the right heir at law and his heirs for ever. The Court was of opinion, that the devisees took estates tail.

chelo, 8 Term

§ 18. It has been stated in the preceding Chapter, Device to A. that where there is a devise to a person and his heirs, with a Rewith a remainder over to a stranger, the devise of the remainder is void. But where lands are devised to a Heir. person and his heirs, with a remainder over to a collateral heir of the first devisee, the word heirs will be construed to mean heirs of the body; and the first Fearne Ex. devisee will only take an estate tail; because the limitation over to the collateral heir, plainly denotes that the testator only meant to give the lands to the lineal descendants of the first devisee; for the first devisee could not die without heirs, as long as the collateral heir, or any of his lineal descendants, were existing.

and his Heirs, mainder over to a collateral

Dev. 179.

§ 19. Thus, where a person devised his houses in London to Francis his son, after the death of his wife, and if his three daughters, or either of them, should

Webb v. Hearing, Cro. Jac. 415 over-live their mother and Francis their brother, and his heirs, then they to enjoy the same houses for term of their lives. The principal question was, whether Francis the son had a see, or a see tail, by the will, in regard the limitation was, if his sisters survived him and his heirs?

The Court resolved he had but a see tail; for heirs in this place was intended, heirs of his body, for the limitation being to his sisters, it was necessarily to be intended that it was, if he should die without issue of his body, for they were his heirs collateral. And, therefore, there was a difference where a devise was to one and his heirs, and if he died without heirs, that it should remain, it was void as 19 Hen. 8. pl. 9. yet, when a devise was to one and his heirs, and if he died without heir it should be to his next brother, there was an apparent intention what heirs he intended; and the intention being collected by the will, the law shall adjudge accordingly.

Tyte v. Willis, Forrest R. 1.

§ 20. A testator devised lands to his wife for life, remainder to Henry his son for life, remainder to his son George and his heirs for ever; and, if he died without heirs, then to his two daughters Catherine and Jane.

Ante l. 19.

The question was, whether George took a fee-simple, or only an estate tail? And the case of Webb and Hearing was cited to prove, that where a devise is to one and his heirs, and, if he die without issue, remainder over to another, who is, or may be, the devisee's heir at law, such limitation shall be good; and the

the first limitation construed an intail, and not a fee, in order to let in the remainder-man: but, where the fecond limitation is to a stranger, it is merely void, and the first limitation is a fee-simple.

Lord Chancellor Talbot.—In this case, George took only an estate tail. The difference, which has been taken, is right: and the reason of it is, that, in the latter case, there is no intent appearing, to make these words carry any other sense than what they import at law; but, in the former, it is impossible that the devisee should die without an heir, while the remainder-man or his issue continue; and, therefore, the generality of the word "beirs" shall be restrained to heirs of the. body, fince the testator could not but know that the devisee could not die without an heir, while the remainder-man, or any of his issue, continued.

- § 21. The rule is the same, where the remainder is Featne Ex. Dev. 180. limited to the heirs of the testator himself; if such heirs must also be heirs to the first devisee.
- § 22. A person having issue three sons, John, Fran-Nottingham v. Jennings, cis, and William, devised his land to Francis and his Com. R. 81. heirs, and, for default of the heirs of Francis, to the heirs of the devisor.

Per Holt Chief Justice.—As the devisor says that his own right heirs shall take after the death of Francis without heirs, although the devisor's heir takes nothing by this devise, (for he takes by descent), yet this circumstance shews the testator's intention to have T 4

been, that, upon the death of Francis without issue, the eldest son should take, and, therefore, the word "beirs" must be construed to mean issue; because Francis could not die without an heir, as long as the testator had an heir.

Morgan v. Griffiths, Cowp. 234.

§ 23. Thomas Griffiths devised an estate to his grandson for and during his natural life, and, after his decease, to his right and lawful heirs and assigns for ever, and, for want of such lawful heirs, he gave the same to another person, his heirs and assigns for ever.

The Court of King's Bench certified to the Court of Chancery, upon this case, that the grandson took an estate tail.

The Words
Issue, Children, &c.
Wild's Case,
6 Rep. 16.
1 Vent. 229.

§ 24. If lands are devised to A, and his issue, or to A, and his children, (A, having no children at the time), he will take an estate tail; because it is clearly the intention of the testator, not to give A, an estate for life only, but that his children should be benefited by the devise: and they cannot take as immediate devisees, not being in rerum natura; nor can they take by way of remainder, the devise being immediate.

Anon. And.

§ 25. A person devised to his son William for term of his life, and, after his decase, to the men-children of his body; and, if the said William died without any man-child of his body, then that the land should remain to another. The Court resolved, that William took an estate to him and the heirs male of his body.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xi. § 26-28.

\$ 26. A. devised to B. and if he died, not having a son, then to remain to the heirs of the testator; the word "son" was there taken to be used as nomen collectivum, and held an estate tail.

Bifield's Cafe, 1 Vent, 231.

§ 27. Edward Wharton devised all the rest and restidue of his estate, as well real as personal, to his nephew Anthony Wharton, and his sons, in tail male; and, for want of such issue in tail male, to his brother John Wharton and his sons, in tail male; and, on sailure of such issue, to his own right heirs. Neither Anthony nor John Wharton had any issue at the time of making the said will, or at the death of the testator: Anthony died without issue. This case was sent out of Chancery for the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas: and the certificate was, that, upon the will and circumstances, John Wharton took an estate in tail male in the premises.

Wharton v. Gresham, 2 Black. Rep. 1083.

§ 28. Christopher Stephens, being seised in see of the lands in question, devised the same in the following manner: "I also give and devise to my son William Stephens, when he shall accomplish the full age of 21 years, the see-simple and inheritance of Lower Shelton, to him and his child or children for ever: but, if my son William Stephens should happen to die before he should accomplish the full age of 21, then I give and bequeath the see-simple and inheritance of Lower Shelton to my wife Elizabeth Stephens, for ever."

Davie v. Stephens, Doug. 524.

Lord Mansfield.—If the testator had used the words, all bis estate," " inheritance," or "for ever," and had

had stopped there, the see-simple would have passed; but the words "child or children" are to the sull as restrictive, as if he had said, "and if my son die with-"out heirs of his body." The words of the will give the son an estate tail; for there were no children born at the time, to take an immediate estate by purchase; the meaning is the same, as if the expression had been to William and his heirs, that is to say, his children or his issue. The words "for ever" make no difference; for William's heirs might last for ever.

Wood v. Baron, i East. R. 259. S 29. The Master of the Rolls directed the following case to be made for the opinion of the Court of King's Bench. Thomas Lowe devised to his daughter Anne all his estate and essects real and personal, and added these words: "Who shall hold and enjoy the same as a place of inheritance to her and her chil-same as a place of inheritance to her and her chil-same, or her issue, for ever; and if it should so happen, that my daughter Anne should die leaving no child or children, or if it so happen my daughter Anne's children should die without issue," then he directed his estates to be sold. The Court certified, that Anne took an estate tail.

An Estate
Tail may
arise by Implication.
Newton v.
Bernardine,
Moor 127.

§ 30. An estate tail may arise in a will by mere implication, without any express words of devise; as where S. A. had issue three sons B., C., and D. B. died, leaving his wise ensient. A devised to the child, "my son's wise now goes with," 20 1. yearly; and if my son C. die before he has any issue of his body, so that my land descend to D. before he comes to 21 years, then my executors shall occupy it, till D. be 21 years

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xii. § 30-33.

of age. It was held, that C. took an estate tail by implication, as well by the words "if he die before he hath issue," as if it had been "if he die without issue."

§ 31. Richard Weeks, having two sons, Richard the elder, and William his younger, devised in these words: "It is my will that, if Richard Weeks my son shall "happen to die, and leave no issue of his body law-"fully begotten, that then, in that case, and not other-"wise, after the death of the said Richard my son, I give and bequeath all my lands of inheritance in L. "unto the said William my son, to have and to hold "the same, after the death of the said Richard, to him and his heirs."—Adjudged by Baron Price,

Walter v. Drew, Com. Rep. 372.

§ 32. John Goodridge having two sons Richard and John, devised all his lands to his wife for life, and then proceeded in these words:—" And my will is, that if "my son Richard do dappen to die without heirs, "then my son John shall enjoy my lands." The court held that Richard took an estate tail by implication.

that Richard took an estate tail by implication.

Goodright v. Goodridge, Willes Rep. 369. 7 Mod. 453.

§ 33. A person having issue a son who was his heir apparent, and two daughters, devised in these words, Is it happen my son B. and my two daughters to die without issue of their bodies lawfully begotten, then all my lands shall be and remain to my nephew D. and his heirs for ever, and died. And it was held, 1st, That no express estate was by this will given to his children. 2d, Nor any estate by implication, because

Gardiner v. Sheldon, 1 Ab. Eq. 197. cause then it must either be a joint-estate for life, with several inheritances in tail; or several estates tail in succession one after another. The last it could not be, because uncertain which should take first, which next, and the first it should not be, because the heir at law is not to be disinherited without a necessary implication, which in this case there was not, for it was only a designation or appointment of the time when the land should come to the nephew.

A Devise generally may be enlarged into an Estate Tail.

\$ 34. A devise to a person generally, without any words of limitation, which of itself would create only an estate for life, may be enlarged by subsequent words, or by implication, into an estate tail.

Chapman's Case, Dyer 333.

§ 35. A house was devised to three brothers, among them; provided always that the house be not sold, but go to the next of the name and blood. Resolved, that the devisees took estates tail.

King v. Rumball, Cro. Jac. 448. § 36. A person devised to his three daughters to be equally divided; and, if any of them died before the other, then the one to be the other's heir, equally to be divided; and, if his three daughters died without issue, then he willed it to two strangers. Adjudged, that the daughters took estates tail.

Robinson v. Miller, 1 Roll. Ab. 837. § 37. A person devised land to his wife for life, and after to his son, and if his son died without issue having no son, that another should have it. Adjudged, that the son took an estate in tail male.

§ 38. Robert Johnson being seised in see of a copy- Hope ex dem. hold of inheritance, which he had surrendered to the Brown v. Taylor, use of his will, devised to J. Wedgeborough his house 1 Burr. 268. in the Brook and 30 l., and then gave other pecuniary legacies; to William Taylor, his fifter's fon, a house by the description of his "bouse on the green with the ce ground and out bouses thereto belonging," and declared his will and meaning to be, that if either of the persons, before named, died without issue lawfully begotten, then the said legacy should be divided equally between them that were left alive. Adjudged that William Taylor took an estate tail.

§ 39. A man having issue two sons, devised all his Blaxton v. land to his eldest son, and, if he died without heirs 3 Mod. R. male, then to his other fon in like manner. The court 133. faid it was plain that the word "body," which properly created an estate tail, was left out; but the intent of the testator might be collected out of his will, that he designed an estate tail; for, without this devise, it would have gone to his second son, if the first had died without issue. It was, therefore, an estate tail.

Stone,

§ 40. A person devised to the three sons of C. D. Evans v. successively in tail male; remainder to every son-and Astley, 3 Bur. 1570. fons of the faid C. D., which should be begotten on the body of Sarab his wife. And for want of such issue to W. H. &c. with a proviso, that the devisees and their descendants should take the surname and arms of the testator. The Court of King's Bench resolved, that the afterborn sons took several estates in tail male, in succession; as the words, "for want of " Such

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. xii. 5 39-42.

" such iffue," must be construed for want of heirs male of the body, and that this was the true construction.

Denn v. Slater, 5 Term R. 335.

§ 41. A person devised in these words: "I give and bequeath all my copyhold lands to my nephew Isaac Slater; but, if the aforefaid Isaac Slater shall die without male heir, then my will is, that my nephew John Slater shall enter upon and enjoy the said copyhold lands, his heirs or assigns for ever. Provided the aforesaid Isaac Slater paid to his wife Elizabeth Slater the sum of 8 1. a year during her life, with a power of entry to the wife if the annuity was not paid. It was contended that Isaac took a fee by reason of the annuity. Lord Kenyon said, it was clear from all the cases on the subject, that Isaac Slater took an estate tail. He cited the case of Blaxton v. Stone, and Burley's case, 43 Eliz. cited by Lord Hale, 1 Vent. 230. "A devise to A. for life, remainder to the next heir male; for default of such heir male, then to remain. Adjudged an estate tail." And, with regard to the other question, the law was very accurately stated by Lord Mansfield in the case in Cowper; where an estate was given generally, without adding words which would create a fee or an estate tail, and it was charged with the payment of annuities, the devilee took a fee; but that was not the case, where an estate tail was given to the devisee.

Ante.

Doe v. Fyldes, Ante f. 4.

A Devile for Life may be enlarged into an Estate Tail. \$ 42. An express devise to a person for life, may be enlarged by subsequent words, or by a necessary implication into an estate tail. For where an estate is devised

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xii. § 42-41.

devised to a person for life, with a limitation over, which is not to take effect while there is any iffue of the device for life, if there are no words in the will under which the iffue can take as purchasers; as they cannot take by implication, the courts, in order to carry the manifest general intent of the testator into effect, have disregarded the particular intent, and by enlarging the estate devised for life, into an estate tail, have let in all the issue of the first devisee.

§ 43. Lands were devised to A. for life, without waste, with a power for him to make a jointure, remainder to his first, second, and so to his sixth son, and no farther; after which followed these words: "If Fizz. R.13. A. should die without issue male of his body, then to B. in fee." This case having been sent out of Chancery to the Court of Common Pleas, by Lord Trever, it was resolved there, that there being no limitation beyond the fixth fon, and for that there might be a feventh, who was not intended to be excluded, therefore to let in the seventh and subsequent sons to take (but still to take as issue and heirs of the body of A. in tail by descent, and not by purchase) the court held the words; "In case A. should die without issue male of his body," did, in a will, make an estate tail.

§ 44. John Sutton being seised in fee of the Chequer Inn in Holbern, devised it to his nephew Thomas Sutton for and during the term of his natural life, and after his death to the first son or issue male of his body lawfully begotten, and to the heirs male of the body of such first son, and for default of such issue, to the

Langley v. Baldwin, r P. Wms. 759. 8 Mod. 258.

Att. General. v. Sutton. 1 P. Wms. 753. 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 75.

second

sutton lawfully to be begotten and to the heirs male of fuch second son, lawfully to be begotten, for ever, and from and immediately after the death of the testator's wife and of his said nephew Thomas Sutton without issue male of his body, or after the death of such issue male, he devised all the said premises to trustees for charitable purposes.

It was held that Thomas Sutton took an estate tail by implication, the remainder being limited after his death without issue male.

Sparrow v. Shaw, 5 Bro. Parl. Ca. 120.

§ 45. T.R. devised an estate to trustees, and the furvivor of them, in trust for his sisters Ann and Dorothy equally betwixt them during their natural lives, without committing any manner of waste; and and if either of my sisters happen to die, leaving issue or issues of her or their bodies lawfully begotten, then in trust for such issue or issues of the mother's share, or else in trust for the survivor or survivors of them, and their respective issue or issues, and if it should happen that both his faid fisters died without issue as aforesaid, and their issue or issues died without issue or issues lawfully to be begotten, then the trustees to stand and be intrusted for the testator's kinsman. The Court of Great Sessions for the county of Flint determined that Dorothy having survived her sister Ann, was tenant in tail of one moiety, under the devise, and of the other moiety as a remainder upon the death of her fister without issue. Upon a writ of error in the Court of King's Bench this judgment was reversed. A writ of

error was then brought in the House of Lords, and all the judges having delivered their opinions seriatim on this case, the judgement of the Court of King's Bench, was reversed, and that given in the Court of Great. Sessions was affirmed.

\$ 46. A person devised his estate to trustees in Allanson v. trust to convey and assign the same to his son, his 1 Ves. 24. heirs, executors, and assigns, when he attained the age of twenty-three years, subject to such settlement as after mentioned. And if he married a gentle-woman, the trustees to settle a jointure on her, and subject thereto, on the issue of the marriage in strict settlement, as counsel should advise. But if he died without issue of his body, he gave his real estate to his nephew C. Cowper. Upon a bill to carry the trusts of this will into execution, Lord Hardwicke directed that there should be an intermediate remainder in tail limited to the son; as the words, "If he die without issue," were sufficient to enlarge or give an estate tail by implication.

Launcelot Hicks, for and during the term of his natural life, and no longer, provided he altered his name and took that of Robinson, and lived at his house at Bochym, and after his decease to such son as he should have lawfully to be begotten, taking the name of Robinson; and for default of such issue, then he bequeathed the same to his cousin W. R. and his heirs for ever.

Robinson v. Hicks, 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 180. 1 Burr. 38. 2 Ves. 225.

Upon a bill to establish this will, and to carry the trusts of it into execution, Sir Joseph Jekyll declared, that Launcelot Hicks alias Robinson was entitled to an estate for life, with remainder to the eldest and but one son of the said Launcelot Robinson for life, they performing the conditions of the will, and that the remainder would go over to W. R. On an appeal from this decree Lord Talbot affirmed it, as to the interest which Launcelot Hicks took in the testator's estate under his will, by a declaration in the very words of the former decree. Launcelot Hicks had two fons, George who died an infant, and Edmund, who filed another bill against W. R. the devisee in remainder, and the trustees, for an execution of the trusts of the will. Lord Hardwicke ordered, that a case should be made for the opinion of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, upon the following question: "Whether any and what estate or interest in 44 the premises in question did by virtue of the said will vest in the said Edmund?" The Judges of the Court of King's Bench certified, "That they were of opinion that upon the true construction of the will of the testator George Robinson, Launcelet Hicks therein named, must, by necessary implication, to effectuate the manifest general intent of the testator, be construed to take an estate in tail male; he and the heirs male of his body taking the name of Robinson, " notwithstanding the express estate devised to the said Launcelot Hicks for his life, and no longer."

The cause coming on to be heard on this certificate before the Lords Commissioners, their Lordships declared

declared that Edmund Hicks otherwise Robinson, as son of Launcelot Hicks, was entitled to an estate in tail male in the premises. From this decree an appeal was brought in the House of Lords, and the Judges were directed to give their opinions upon the following question, viz. "Whether any and what estate or in-" terest in the premises in question was, by virtue of " the will of the testator George Robinson, vested in " Edmund Hicks alias Robinson, the respondent." And, after taking time to consider, the Lord Chief Baron delivered the following unanimous opinion, viz. "That, by the will of the testator George Robinson, " an estate in tail male did vest in Launcelot Hicks " alias Robinson, the father, and that an estate tail was " vested in Edmund Hicks alias Robinson, the son, as "heir male of the body of Launcelot Hicks alias "Robinson." Whereupon it was ordered and adjudged, that the appeal should be dismissed, and the decree therein complained of affirmed.

William Brown and his assigns, for and during the term of his natural life; and from and after the death of the said William Brown, then to the first son of the body of the said William Brown, and to the heirs male of the body of such first son, and for want of such issue then to the second, third, sourth, sifth, and every other son and sons of the said William Brown, according to their seniority, and to the heirs male of the body of such second, third, sourth, sifth, and other sons of the said William Brown; and for want of such issue of the said William Brown; and for want of such issue of the said William Brown, then to U 2

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Chapman v. Brown, 3 Purt. 1626, 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 259. Cafes and Opins. vol. 2. 417.

the second son of his brother Reginald Brown, for and during the term of his natural life; and from and after the death of the faid second son of his brother Reginald Brown, then to the first son of the body of fuch second son of his said brother Reginald Brown, and to the heirs male of the body of such second son, and for default of such issue, to the third, sourth, fifth, and every other younger fon or fons of the faid second son of his said brother Reginald Brown, according to their seniority, and to the heirs males of the bodies of the said third, fourth, fifth, and other sons of the said second son of the said Reginald Brown; and for want of such issue then to the eldest or next fon or fons of the faid Reginal's Brown for the time being, for the term of his natural life, and after his or their deaths, to the heirs males of the bodies of such eldest or next son of his said brother Reginald Brown, with remainder to the fons of his brother Samuel. The testator died leaving Thomas, Reginald, and Samuel, his brothers, and William his nephew the son of Reginald; after the death of the testator Reginald had issue a fecond son, named Thomas; and the question was, whether Thomas took any and what estate under this The Court of King's Bench was of opinion, that Thomas Brown took an estate tail. A writ of error was brought in the House of Lords and the following question was put to the Judges-" Whether Thomas the second son of Reginald Brown took any and what estate under the will of Joshua Brown? Whereupon the Lord Ch. Baron delivered their unanimous opinion—"That Thomas the second son of Reginald Brown took an estate tail under the will of " Joshua

" Joshua Brown." Whereupon the Judgement of the Court of King's Bench was affirmed.

§ 49. A. Dymock devised to his nephew William all his freehold estate at A. to hold to him during his natural life, and after his decease, to and amongst his issue; and in default of issue, to be divided between his nephew E. and his niece M. and to their heirs and assigns for ever.

Doe v. Applin, 4 Term R. 82.

Lord Kenyon.—" Although this will is very inac-" curately drawn, I think we may collect the devisor's " general intention from the words of it; the great " question in this case is, what estate W. Dymock took " under the will. In the first clause the estate is ex-" pressed to be given only during his natural life, but " in the next limitation it is to go to his iffue, and in default of iffue only, it was to go over; it is clear " therefore from the whole of the will, that the de-45 visor did not intend that it should go over to those " in remainder, until after a general failure of issue in 4 W. Dymock. Now I think we are warranted by " many determinations, and particularly by that of " Robinson v. Robinson, to give that effect to the will Ante £ 39. " which will best answer the devisor's general inten-" tion; though, by so doing, we may defeat some e particular intent. Here the general intent was, " that W. Dymock and his iffue should take first; then what construction will best effectuate that intention. "It has been argued by the plaintiff's counsel, that "W. Dymock took only an estate for life, and his "children an estate tail: but it would be difficult to **U** 3

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xii. § 49, 50.

" put two different interpretations on the word issue; and, even if that could be done, it would not further the intention of the devisor in this case; for there are no cross remainders to the children, and they never can be implied; so that, according to the construction contended for, if one of the children died, his share would go over to those in remainder, in prejudice of those children who survived, which was certainly not intended by the devisor. Therefore we shall best answer his general intent by saying, that W. Dymock took an estate tail; and, in so determining, we shall not go farther than has been done in other cases." Judgement was given that W. Dymock took an estate tail.

Denn v. Puckey, 5 Term R. 299.

Doe v. Smith, 7 Term R. 531.

§ 50. A person devised all his freehold messuages, &c. to his daughter Mary Ayscough and the heirs of her body, lawfully to be begotten, for ever; as tenant in common, and not as joint-tenants; and in case his said daughter should happen to die before twenty one, or without having issue on her body lawfully begotten, then he gave his freehold messuages to R. Ayscough in see.

Apte 47.

Lord Kenyon said, it was a rule of construction in cases of this kind, settled by a variety of decisions, but particularly by that of Robinson v. Hicks, that where it appeared in a will, that the testator had a general intention, and also a secondary intention, and they clashed, the latter must give way to the former. Here were no words of limitation added to the estate given to the children, (supposing they took as purchasers)

chasers) and yet the remainder over was not to take effect till there was a general failure of her issue; so that there must be an estate to comprehend all her children for ever; his Lordship concluded in these words—" I admit that in this case the testator in—" tended, that his daughter M. Aysough should only "take an estate for her life, and that her children "should take as purchasers: but then he also intended that all the progeny of those children should take before any interest should vest in his more remote relations: now the latter intention cannot be carried into essent, unless M. Aysough takes an estate tail; in order therefore to give effect to the devisor's general intention, according to the fair construction of the will, M. Aysough must take an estate tail."

§ 51. Henry Cook devised a messuage or tenement to Richard Cook for the term only of his natural life, and after his decease, he gave and devised the same unto the lawful issue of the said Richard Cook, as tenants in common, to whom he gave, devised, and bequeathed the same; but in case the said Richard Cook should die without leaving lawful issue, then and in such case, after his decease, he gave and devised the same to Elizabeth Harding in see.

Doe v. Cooper, 1 East. R. 229.

Lord Kenyan said, it had been the settled doctrine of Westminster Hall, for the preceding forty or sisty years, that there might be a general and a particular intent in a will, and that the latter must give way, when the sorier could not otherwise be carried into essect. That this doctrine had been consirmed by the cases of U 4.

Robinson

Robinson v. Hicks, Roe v. Grew, and Doe v. Smith, that perhaps the court would best fulfil the particular intent of the testator in this case, by giving Richard Cook only an estate for life; but the general intent was that all issue should inherit the entire estate, before it went over; and that intent could only be answered by giving him an estate tail, by implication from the subsequent words, "In default of his leaving issue."

Vide infra, ch. 14. the first instance, and there is a subsequent devise to the heirs of the body of the devisee, he will take an estate in tail.

TITLE XXXVIIL

DEVISE.

CHAP. XIII.

Construction.-What Words create an Estate for Life.

- § 1. Where an express Estate for Life is devised.
- . 6. Though a Power of Disposal is given.
- 10. A Devise without any Words of Limitation.
- 26. Though charged with a Payment out of the Effett devised.
- § 33. Or an Annuity during the Life of the Devisee.
 - 35. The Word Effate, when descriptive of Local Situation.
 - 38. The Word Hereditaments only passes an Estate for Life.

Section 1.

Thas been stated in the preceding chapter, that although an express estate for life be devised, yet if the general intent of the testator requires that the issue of the devisee for life should take by descent from him, the courts have enlarged his estate into an estate tail; but where the manifest general intent of the testator does not require that the estate for life expressly given should be enlarged into an estate tail, the devises will only take an estate for life, in consequence of the rule that, expressum facit cessare tacitum. And it is observable, that the doctrine of carrying the general intent into essect, in contradiction to the particular intent, is of very modern date.

Where an express Estate for Life is devised.

1 Roll Ab. 837. pl. 13. S 2. A person devised to his eldest son for life, remainder to the sons of his body lawfully begotten, and, if they aliened, that his daughters should have the same estate, remainder to his right heirs; it was resolved, that the eldest son had but an estate for life, and that his son should have it by purchase; because it was expressly limited, that he should have it only for life.

1 Vent. 231.

Lord Hale says, that the words, in this case, were to his eldest son for life, et non aliter; and that it was held to be an estate for life, by reason of the words non aliter.

Bamfield v₄
Popham,
1 P. Wm. 54.

§ 3. A person devised his estate to trustees and their heirs, to the use of them and their heirs, in trust for Popham for life, with remainder to his first and other sons successively in tail male, and, for want of issue male of Popham, remainder over. Afterwards the testator, by a codicil, reciting that he had by his will given the premises to Popham and the heirs male of his body, willed, that if the estate should determine, and Popham should die without issue male, then his estate to be disposed of in such a manner, &c.

The questions were, 1st, Whether the words of the will, viz. "for want of issue male of Popham," did not by implication give an estate tail to Popham? 2d, Whether, (admitting the words in the will did not give an estate tail), the codicil, reciting that the testator had by his will devised the premises to Popham and the heirs male of his body, would not so far insluence

and explain the will, as to make it an estate tail, though it was not so before?

It was resolved unanimously, that Popham had only an estate for life by the will, and that the same was not enlarged or altered by the codicil: for they all resolved that, here being an express estate given to Popham for life, with remainder to his first and every other son, &: the words, " if Popham should die without issue " male," should not enlarge his estate to an estate tail, in regard these amounted only to make an estate tail by implication; and words of implication could never destroy what was before expressed; so that the words, " if he should die without issue male," could mean no more than if he should die without sons.

S 4. A testator devised all his freehold estates to Blackborn v. trustees, in trust to convey the same to Ewer Edgeley for life, remainder to trustees during his life, to preserve contingent remainders, remainder to his first and other sons in tail male, remainder to his daughters in tail general, as tenants in common, with power to the faid E. E. to make a jointure; and if E. E. should die without issue, then he devised the premises over.

Edgeley,

It was contended, that E. Edgeley, by virtue of the words, " if he die without issue of his body," should have an estate tail in the premises; to which, it was answered, that here was an express estate for life limited to E, Edgeley; and the words, "if he should die without illue," being only words of implication, pur

300

Title XXXVIII. Devile. Ch. xhi. § 4, 5, tion, would not merge and deliroy an express estate for life.

The court exploded the notion, that words of implication should not turn an express estate for life into an estate tail; and said, that if J. devise an estate to A. for life, and after his death without issue, then to to B., this will give an estate tail to A. according to Sunday's case: but, here being a limitation upon £. Edgeley's death to his fons, and after to his daughters, the following words, " if E. Edgeley should die without issue," must be intended, if he should die without such issue. And as to what had been urged, that unless these words were to create an estate tail in E. Edgelcy, his son's daughters could not take; it did not appear that the testator intended E. Edgeley's son's daughters should take, for he might think that, on E. Edgeley's dying without issue male, his name and family would be determined; for which reason, he might limit it over to the daughters of E. Edgeley himself. Besides, the son of E. Edgeley would be tenant in tail; and when of age, might, by docking the intail, give the premises to his daughters.

Ante.

Goodtitle v. Wadhold, cited 1 Bur. 45.

§ 5. A person devised to his eldest son, only for life, and in the case of failure of issue, &c. that it should descend and come to his the testator's male children, &c. The Court of Common Pleas held this to be an estate for life only; because, being expressed to be given for life only, with negative words, it could not be enlarged by implication.

§ 6. Although a device to a person generally, with Though a a power to give and dispose of the estate devised, as he pleases, creates an estate in see-simple, yet, where an estate is devised to a person expressly for life, with a power of disposal, the device only takes an estate for life, with a naked power to give the reversion.

Power of Difposal is given. Ch. 11.

5 7. A testator having two daughters, devised lands Anon.3 Leon. to his wife for life, and, at her decease, she to give the 71. 4 Leon. fame to whom she pleased. The wife granted the reversion to a stranger, and committed waste, and the two daughters brought an action of waste. It was held, that by the devise, the wife had but an estate for life, with an authority to give the reversion to whom she pleased; and her grantee would be in by the will, for the testator had given his wife an express estate for life, and therefore the could not, by implication, have any greater estate: but if an express estate had not been appointed to the wife, by the other words, an estate in see-simple had passed,

§ 8. John Témlinson devised lands to his wife for her life, and then to be at her disposal, provided it was to any of his children, if living; if not, to any of his kindred that his wife should please. It was resolved that the wife had but an estate for life, with a power of disposing of the inheritance. And Lord Chief Justice Parker said,—" As to this, the difference is "where a power is given with a particular description * and limitation of the estate, as here; and where " generally as to executors to give or sell; for, in 44 the former cale, the eleate limited being empress and 44 certain.

Tomlinson v. Dighton, t P. Wm. 149. "certain, the power is a distinct gift, and comes in by way of addition; but, in the latter, the whole is general and indefinite; and as the persons intrusted are to convey a see, they must, consequently, and by a necessary construction, be supposed to have a fee themselves."

Hockley v. Mawbey, 1 Vef. Jun. 143.

§ 9. John Ruffell, by will, gave a legacy of 1000 l. to his son Richard Russell, and an estate in see to a nephew, and then directed his executrix to lay out 2000 l. of his personal property in the purchase of freehold estates, within twelve months after his death. Those estates, to be purchased, four messuages in Jehnfon's Court, Fleet Street, some others in Bermondsey, and the reversion of others elsewhere, (describing them all), and all his leasehold estates, he gave to his wife Rebecca Ruffell for life; and, from and immediately after her decease, to his son Richard Russell and his issue lawfully begotten, or to be begotten, to be divided among them as he should think sit: and, in case he should die without issue, he directed that all, as well his present freehold and leafehold, as the estates directed to be purchased, should be fold; and the money, arising from the sale, should be divided among the children of his brother Ruffell, and of his difters Willis and Parks, equally, share and share alike. There was a subsequent direction, that no part either of his present freehold and leafehold, or of the estate so directed to be purchased, should be sold during the lives of his wife and fon. All the rest, residue, and remainder of his property and effects, whatsoever and wheresoever, after payment of debts, legacies, and funeral expences,

he gave to his wife for her own use and benefit, for ever, and appointed her his sole executrix. The wife enjoyed under the will for her life; and, after her death, the son enjoyed for his life, and died without leaving issue. The will was established by a decree.

One of the questions in this case was, Whether Richard Russell the son took an estate tail, or for life only, under this will?

Lord Thurlow said it was clear to him, that the testator intended, and, he thought, had pretty plainly expressed, a contingency with a double aspect; in one case, to the children of the son, in the other, to the other persons pointed out; to the children of the son in one way, to the other parties in another, viz. by fettling it so as to distribute it among the great number of persons who might come within that description. The limitation to the fon and his issue would be an estate tail, and, perhaps, the aptest way of describing an estate tail according to the statute: but it was clear he did not intend it to go to them as heirs in tail: for he meant they should take distributively, and according to proportions to be fixed by the son. It had often been decided in other cases beside those mentioned at the Bar. that, where there was a gift in that way, the parties must take as purchasers: for there was no other way for them to take. The immediate consequence of this was, that Richard Russell could only take for life; and the consequence of that was, that this was a gift to the wife for life, then to the son for life; and after, to his issue, in such distributive shares as he should appoint. point. It was then faid, that this might be interpreted to be a gift to the fon in tail, with a power annexed to raise a future use upon it, of the description mentioned. As to that, he apprehended, that, in case there had been children of the son, it was not intended to be left in his power to determine, whether he should or should not consider it as his own, and raise a future use if he pleased: but the disposition gave an interest to his children, and a title to insist upon an estate in the premises so given at all events: and then the son had no authority but as to the proportions in which they were to take; but not to choose whether any thing should be given to them or not. Then the effect was like all other gifts to perfore in remainder, capable of being divided; but if not, equally: and that was the necesfary consequence of the supposition he mentioned before, that he intended to vest an interest in the children of his son independently of the son, except as to the proportions; and that even so, as:that they should not be illusory. It was observed, that the word " iffus? would extend to grandchildren, or any other degree of kindred, however remote. He thought it would be so, but only in this point of view; as a description of the objects, among whom the power of the ion was to obtain, to make such partition as he should think fit; and, whosoever they were, they must be in existence during the life of the fon, and he must have made it during his life; if so, it was of no consequence how they were described; for, if it vested in him, it was of no consequence to say they were not the immediate descendants of the son. It was an estate, devised upon two alternative contingencies; one, that there were objects capable of saking under the first limitation; another, that there

Were

were none fuch, but that there were objects capable of taking under the second. As to its being an estate tail by implication, it was contrary to reason and to common sense to impute that intention to him, if only arising from his not having made a special devise of the estate in that form. The estate he was directing to be fold, and the estate supposed to be given to the son in tail, were the same; and if so given, it could not be fold by this power, and did not come within the range of what he had before directed. It was plain, therefore, he did not intend an estate tail; and he was himself clear upon that point.

§ 10. Where no words of limitation are added to a devise, and there are no other words from which an intention to give an estate of inheritance can Limitation. be collected, the devisee will only take an estate for life,

A Devile without any Words of

Sir. If a man devise in this manner—I devise Blackacre to my daughter F. and the heirs of her body begotten. Item, I devise unto my said daughter Whiteacre. The daughter shall have but an estate for life in Whiteacre: for the word Item is not so much as, in the same manner.

I Roll. Ab. 844. 1 Roll. Rep.

369. 1 Mod. 10Q.

§ 12. But if a person devise Blackaere to one in Idem. tail, and also Whiteacre, the devisee shall have an estate tail in Whiteacre also, for this is all one sentence, and so the words which make the limitation of the estate go to both.

Vol. VI.

X

§ 13. A person

306

1 Roll. Rep. 369. 3 Bulstrode 147. § 13. A person made his will in these words—" I devise to my eldest son and his heirs Blackacre for his part. Item, I devise to my second son Whiteacre for his part." Adjudged that the second son took a see, because the words have a reference to the part of the eldest son.

Pettywood v. Cook, Cro. Eliz. 52, 2 Leon. 129. S 14. One Hawkins being seised in see of three houses devised them to his wife for life, the remainder of one to Robert his son and his heirs, the remainder of another to Christian his daughter and her heirs; and of the third to Joan his daughter and her heirs; and did surther will that if any of them died without issue, then the survivors should enjoy, totam illam partem, equally divided between them. It was resolved that the survivor only took an estate for life.

Spirt v.
Bence,
Cro.Car.368.
Vaugh. 262.

devised lands to B. in tail, remainder to C. in see: and other lands to C. in tail, remainder to D. in tail; and then other lands to D. in see. He afterwards said—

Hem, I give Blackacre to my said son D. Item, I give to my said son D. Whiteacre; also I will that all bargains, grants, &c. which I have from J. S. my son D. shall enjoy and his heirs for ever; and for lack of heirs of his body, to my son C. for ever. Agreed by all that the bargains and grants, &c. only were intailed. And that D. had but an estate for life in Blackacre and Whiteacre,

Woodward v. Glassbrook, \$ Vern. 388,

§ 16. A person devised a house to his sons James and Thomas, and the heirs of their bodies, in equal moleties,

moieties, and then added, "But my will and mind is, 66 that if any of my said children shall die before "twenty-one, or unmarried, the part or share of him or her so dying, shall go over to the survivors." Lord Ch. Just. Holt was of opinion that Thomas dying unmarried, his moiety went over to the survivor; and that by the devise over, only an estate for life passed.

- § 17. In the case of Cook v. Cook, which has been Ante ch. 10. stated in a former chapter, Lord Cowper held that the issue of J. S. only took an estate for life.
- § 18. A person devised a copyhold estate to his Roev. Holms, daughter Jane, her heirs and assigns for ever; but in case his said daughter died before she attained the age of twenty-one years, and had no issue, then his will was, that his nephew John Hardisty should have his faid copyhold lands and tenements. The court was clearly of opinion that John Hardisty took only an estate for life. That the testator, by his devise to Jane, plainly understood the force of words of limitation, and if he had intended to give his nephew more than an estate for life, he knew how to have done it. That there were no express words in the will that gave the nephew a fee, nor any manifest intention to do so, or to disinherit the heir at law,
- § 19. A will began with these words—As touching the disposition of such temporal estate as it has pleased God to bestow on me. And then the testator proceeded to give his house to his son Samuel Russel, and after his death, then to the sons of Samuel, Thomas

Right v. Russel, cited Doug. 761.

2 Will, Rep.

and

X 2

and William; and gave a legacy of one shilling to the husband of his heir at law. It was adjudged that Thomas and William took only an estate for life.

Roe v. Blackett, Cowp. 235.

§ 20. C. B. being seised and possessed of freehold and leasehold property, lying contiguous, and demised together, made his will and devised to his wife all his freehold and leasehold messuages, &c. and all his estate and interest therein, for and during her natural life, and after her decease, he devised the said mesfuages to his fifters in law M. S. and M. B. as tenants in common; but in case his mother should give any disturbance to his wife, then his will was, that the same should go to his kinsman W. B. his heirs and assigns for ever; and charged his estate with the payment of all his just debts, to be paid out of the yearly rents of his estates by his said wife. Lord Mansfield faid, there were no words of limitation added to this devise, and therefore it was clear by the rule of law, that it was only an estate for life, unless it could be found from the whole of the will taken together, and applied to the subject matter of this devise, that the testator's intention was to give a fee. Judgment that the sisters-in-law only took an estate for life,

Roev.Bolton, 2 Black, R. 1045. Poug. 761. § 21. A person devised all his real and personal estate to his wife, for her natural life, and at or immediately after her decease, he gave to his son Paul, all that his land lying and being in Dudley, and gave to each of his grand-children (one of whom was his heir at law) a legacy of sive shillings. The court was of opinion that Paul only took an estate for life.

§ 22. John

S 22. John Gaskin began his will thus, as to all such Denn v. wordly estate as God has endued me with—he then Cowp. 657. gave all that his freehold messuage and tenement lying in Gaitsgill, &t: to his three nephews, equally to them, and gave 10s. to his heir at law.

Lord Mansfield said, it was settled in devises, as well as in deeds, that if no words of limitation are added, the devicee can only take an estate for life, because the law implies a life estate only, where there are no words of limitation: But as there are no technical words necessary in a will, if the testator makes use of what is tantamount, as if he fays, I give to such a one in fee simple, or, all my estate, that will carry all his interest in the land devised. But there must be words in the will to controul the rule of law, which his Lordship believed in a variety of cases thwarted the intention of the testator. He suspected extremely that in this very case, the testator meant to give his nephews a fee in the premises in question; for he had no other landed property. He made them residuary legatees of his personalty, and gave a disinheriting legacy to his heir at law, agreeable to the vulgar notion taken from the Roman law, that an heir is cut off with a shilling. But the single question was, whether the court could find any words in the will to take this case out of the rule of law, if they could not, it must be adhered to. Lordship said, it was impossible to find words in this will sufficient to controul the rule of law. There were no words that could connect the devise of the lands in question, with the introduction, so as to pass the whole X 3.

whole interest, therefore the devisees could only take an estate for life.

Right v. Sidebotham, Dong. 759. S 23. William Sparrowhawk devised as follows:—
"For those worldly goods and estates wherewith it hath pleased Almighty God to bless me, I give and dispose of the same in manner following,"—then gave one shilling to his heir at law; and, after giving other legacies, came this clause—"And I do give and demise unto Susanna Sparrowhawk my said wise, her heirs, and assigns for ever, all my lands lying in the parish of, &c. And I give and bequeath to my loving wise aforesaid, all my lands, tenements, and houses, lying in the parish of Chipping-norton." The question was, whether the last mentioned premises were devised to the widow in fee, or for life.

Lord Mansfield.—I verily believe that, almost in every case where by law a general devise of lands is reduced to an estate for life, the intent of the testator is thwarted; for ordinary people do not distinguish between real and personal property. The rule of law, however, is established and certain, that express words of limitation, or words tantamount, are necessary to pass an estate of inheritance, "all my estate," or "all my interest," will do; but "all my lands lying in such a place," is not sufficient: such words are considered merely as descriptive of the local situation, and only carry an estate for life; nor are words, tending to disinherit the heir at law, sufficient to prevent his taking un less the estate is given to somebody else. I have no doubt but the testator's intention here was, to disinherit

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xiii. § 23, 24.

inherit his heir at law, as well as in the case of Denn v. Gaskin; but the only circumstance of difference Aute s. 22. between that case and this, and which has been relied on as in favour of the defendants, if the testator had any meaning by it (which I do not believe he had) rather turns the other way; because he uses different words in devising different parts of his estate. think we are bound by the case of Denn v. Gaskin. Judgment that the widow took only a life estate in the last mentioned premises.

§ 24. Sir R. Worsley, being seised in see of the premises Hay v. Earl of in question, devised them to trustees, upon trust that Coventry, they should stand seised thereof to the use of his grand- 83. fon Robert Earl of Granville for life, remainder to his first and other sons in tail male; remainder to Lady Carteret for life; remainder to her first and every other fons in tail male; and, in default of fuch issue, "To se, the use of all and every the daughter and daughters of the body of the faid Lady Carteret, lawfully iffu-"ing, as tenants in common and not as joint-tenants; " and in default of fuch iffue, to the use and behoof " of his own right heirs for ever."

2 Term R.

Lady Carteret had one daughter, Lady Catherine Hay; and the question was, what interest she took under this devise?

A case was sent out of Chancery to the Court of King's Bench for their opinion.

Lord Kenyon. - The general rule which is laid down in the books, and on which alone courts can with any fafety proceed, in the decision of questions of this kind, is, to collect the testator's intention, from the words he has used in his will, and not from conjecture. It is not necessary, that any technical or artificial form of words should be used in a will; but we must collect the meaning of the testator from those words, which he has used, and cannot add words, which he has not used. The objection then occurs in this case, "Voluit sed non dixit." The plaintiff's argument goes to shew that the daughters took estates in tail general: but that could not have been the intention of the devisor; as no such estate is given in any part of the will, and the devisor has totally laid aside the daughters of the sirst devisee, and the daughters of his sons. The words here used, technically considered, only confer an estate for life on Lady Catherine Hay. It has been argued, that we may prefume an intention in the devisor, from other parts of the will, to give estates in succession to the daughters; but I cannot find any words in the will to warrant such a construction. If indeed the word " fuch" had not been introduced in this clause, we might perhaps have said that, as "issue" is " genus generalissimum," it should include all the progeny; but here the word " fuch" is relative, and restrains the words which accompany it. This case is precisely fimilar to that of Denn v. Page, which was determined in this court in Mich. 24 Geo. 3. There the Court held, that sufficient did not appear on the face of the will, to warrant them in faying that an estate of inheritance was given to the daughter; that, if it were left

Cited r Bos. & Pull. 261.

to conjecture, they might suppose that some mistake had been made in the limitation; but they could not determine on conjecture, nor put that in the devisor's mouth which he had not faid.

The certificate was, that Lady Catherine Hay took an estate for life.

S 25. Lord Mulgrave, having an only daughter, Roe v. Lord and three brothers, devised his estates in trust to Lord 5 Term R. Long ford, &c. &c. for "my first and every other son in tail male, failure of such issue, to my brother "Henry and his first and every other son in tail male," and fo on to his brothers in the same words, and then to his daughter in the fame manner, and concluded with these words, "in all the foregoing cases without impeachment of waste, other than wilful." Then, after making a provision for his daughter, to the amount of 20,000l. the will proceeded thus:—"My will is, that the money lodged at Childs, to pay for the purchase of the Lyth Rectory, be applied to that purchase as soon as Sir John Sheffield can comof plete the title, and the renewals to be made by the "tenant for life." It appeared that Sir John Sheffield held the rectory of Lyth for three lives, under the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Lord Kenyon, Ch. Just .- The words " first and every other son," "children," or "heir," may be taken to be words of limitation, where it is necessary to give them that construction, in order to effectuate the intention of the testator, as in Robinson v. Robinson:

though, ordinarily speaking, they are words of pur's chase. But, in this case, no doubt can be entertained respecting the devisor's intent. First, he devised to his own "first and every other son in tail male," &c. and if he had no issue, "then to his brother Henry " and his first and every other son in tail male," &c. Now, if he had given instructions to a conveyancer to draw his will, and to make his brothers tenants for life, and their children tenants in tail, these are precifely the terms in which he would have given fuch instructions: and, in construing wills, we must take into consideration the short hints of the devisor, in order to discover his intention. To be sure, if the objection "Voluit sed non dixit," had occurred, it could not have been got over. We could not have inferted words in a will, which would have varied the construction of those used, even if we thought that the devisor had intended to have used them: but here the intention is fufficiently explained by the words which he has used. And great weight is also due to the subfequent words, which direct the renewal of the life estate to be made "by the tenant for life;" for they can only apply to the devisor's brothers, since there was no other person, who could take a life estate under the will. In some of the cases, indeed, nice distinctions have been made to whom the word " beirs" should be applied: but without entering into those niceties, because it is unnecessary in this case, (where the devisor's intention may be collected from different parts of the will) I am clearly of opinion, that on the fair construction of the will, the present Lord . Mulgrave

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xiii. § 25-27. Mulgrave only took a life-estate, with remainder in tail to his issue.

S 26. It has been stated that a devise to a person without any words of limitation, charged with the payment of a gross sum of money, or of debts or annuities, creates an estate in fee; but it is laid down in Collier's Case, that a devise to a person to the intent that with the profits he should educate his daughter; or of the profits of the land, pay to one so much, and to another so much, was but an estate for life, for he was sure to have no loss.

Though charged with a Payment out of the Estate devised. 6 Rep. 16 a.

Bacon v. Hill, Cro. Eliz. 497.

§ 27. William Lock being seised in see and having Ansley v. feveral sons, and being bound in an obligation that Cro. Car. 157. 401. should be paid annually to his wife during her life, made his will and thereby devised all his lands by feveral clauses to his several sons, and amongst others he devised the land in question to his sons Michael and Henry, and added this clause—Item, All the houses and lands which I have given between my fons is to this purpose, that they all shall bear part and part alike going out of all my houses and lands, towards the payment of my wife's 401. per annum during her life, which I am bound to pay.

Chapman,

The court resolved that an estate for life only passed by this devise, for it was not devised paying a sum in gross, but that every one should pay out of his part towards the 401. to his wife; which was quast an annual rent out of the profits of the land, and no sum in gross, and therefore no fee was given.

Merson v. Blackmore, 2 Atk. 341. S 28. A person gave all his lands, tenements, and messuages whatsoever, after debts and legacies paid, and suneral expences were discharged, to J. M. It was said by Mr. Fortescue M. R. that where a gross sum was to be paid out of the lands, it gave a see to the devisee of those lands; but here the debts were not at all events charged upon the real estate, but only contingently, if the personal estate should be desicient; and therefore did not come up to the cases cited of a gross sum to be paid out of land, and consequently gave no more than an estate for life to the devisee.

\$ 29. It has been laid down in two modern cases, that where the payment of a gross sum of money, or of debts and legacies, is charged on the estate devised, and not on the devisee, such a charge will not operate so as to give the devisee an estate in see; and, therefore, if no words of limitation are added, he will only take an estate for life.

Denn v. Mel-. lor, 5 Term Rep. 558.

Melerm

Note unto N. Lister all that my customary estate, &c.

All all the rest of my lands, tenements, and hereditaments, either freehold or copyhold whatsoever and wheresoever; and also all my goods, chattels, and personal estate, of what nature or kind soever, after payment of my just debts, and suneral expences, I give, devise, and bequeath the same unto my wife Sissily Carr, and appointed her sole executrix. The question was, whether Sissily Carr took an estate in see, or only for life.

Lord Kenyen said; that where a devisee is directed to pay an annual rent charge, or a folid fum to another person, out of the estate devised, it had been properly decided that the devisee should take a fee, because he might be a loser, unless the estate in his hands were at all events sufficient to enable him to bear those charges. Where a sum of money was given, it might be payable before the rents became due; and where an annual charge was made on the estate, it might continue beyond the life of the device, and, therefore, it was necessary, in both those cases, that the device should have a permanent fund. This case had been compared to that of Doe v. Richards, Antech. 13. but there the words were, "my legacies and funeral expences being thereout paid;" which imported, that those sums were to be paid by the devisee out of the interest given to her: and if she had died immediately after the devisor, and had only taken a life estate, the fund out of which she was to bear those charges might have failed. The court was therefore compelled to make that decision, and he was now perfeetly satisfied with it. But, in this case, the words of the will are, " after payment of my just debts and " funeral expences." Now, supposing the devisor had, in the beginning of the will, charged his debts and funeral expences on his real estate, and had then, after a series of limitations, devised to his wife, in the words now used, it could not have been contended, that fuch a charge on the real estate would have passed the fee to his wife; and if not, the place in which the same words were introduced could not vary the question.

with the payment of debts and funeral expences, if the personality was not sufficient for that purpose, but there were no words charging the estate in the hands of the wife with the payment of those debts. This, therefore, essentially differed the present case from that of Dee v. Richards; for there, the debts were to be paid by the devisee, and were a charge on the estate in his hands; whereas here, the debts were no charge on the devisee.

Judgment was given, that Sissily Carr took only an estate for life.

1 Bof. & Pul. Rep. 558. On a writ of error in the Exchequer Chamber, this judgment was reversed, upon the ground, that the words, all the rest of the real estate, created an estate in sec.

Upon a writ of error in the House of Lords, the following question was put to the Judges:—" What " estate the devisee, Sissiy Carr, took in the premises in question?" And the Judges having taken time to consider the said question, the Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer delivered their unanimous opinion, that Sissiy Carr took an estate for life in the premises in question. Whereupon the judgment of the Court of Exchequer Chamber was reversed, and the judgment of the Court of King's Bench affirmed.

8 Term R.

- § 31. Previous to the hearing of this case in the House of Lords, the following case was determined by the Court of King's Bench, in conformity to the doctrine laid down by that court in the preceding case.
- § 32. A person made his will in these words: Doe v. Allen, As to what real and personal estate it hath pleased Almighty God to bless me with, I give and dispose of the fame as followeth. First, my will is, that all my debts and funeral expences be justly paid off and discharged out of my personal estate, and if the same shall fall short, I do hereby charge my real estate with the payment of the same. I do hereby give and devise all my messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, situate, lying, and being, &c. &c. unto William Allen of S., son of Thomas Allen of S. aforefaid, deceased. The question was, What estate passed by these words? And Lord Kenyon said, that the debts were not at all events charged upon the real estate, but only contingently, if the personal estate should not be sufficient, and therefore did not come up to the cases cited of a gross sum to be paid out of land, and, consequently, gave no more than an estate for life to the devisee. Judgment was given accord-
- ingly. § 33. It has been stated in a former chapter, that a devise of land, charged with an annual payment to a third person for life, creates an estate in fee: but it is otherwise, where the annual payment is only to con-

Or an Annuity during the Life of the Devisee. Ch. 11. f. 64.

tinuç

tinue during the life of the person to whom the land is devised.

Ager v. Pool, Dyer 371 b.

§ 34. A person devised to D. his wife, yielding and paying therefor yearly during her natural life to the right heirs of his father forty shillings, &c. The court was of opinion, that D. took-only an estate for life.

The word
Estate, when
descriptive of
local Situation.

§ 35. It has been stated in a former chapter, that the word estate will create a see-simple, when it appears to have been used by a testator to denote all his interest in the lands devised. But where it appears to have been descriptive of the local situation of the lands devised, it will then pass only an estate for life.

Chester v. Painter, 2P.Wms.335.

§ 36. Upon an appeal to the King in council from a decree made in the island of Antigua, the case was—a person, having real and personal estate, gave and bequeathed one third part of all his estate whatsoever to his wife Ann; and devised to his son John, and to his heirs, two-thirds of all his real and personal estate. It was determined by Lord Raymond, Sir Joseph Jekyll, and Lord Chief Justice Eyre, that the wise took only an estate for life, the word estate being rather a description of the thing itself, than of the testator's interest in it; and by the next clause, it appeared, that where the testator intended to give a see, there he took care to add the word heirs, to the word estate.

Brigge,

Rep. 210.

§ 37. A person having devised his estate to his ne- Rogers v. phew Thomas Hutton and his heirs, added these words; " and if my said nephew shall have no issue male, then " my faid estate shall go to the daughter or daughters " of my brother Richard, and to the daughter or " daughters of my brother Mathew, remainder to his "right heirs." And the question was, whether, by the devise of the estate to the daughters of Richard and Mathew, an estate in see, or for life, passed? The court was clearly of opinion, that an estate for life only, passed to the daughters; for as it was argued, that although in grants, and also in wills, the word estate was sufficient to carry a fee, yet, in this case, where the consequence was the disinheriting an heir at law, a fee should not pass thereby, unless the intent of the testator was very plain and apparent for that purpose. That the intent was not so apparent, as to force the court to put such a construction on the devise to the daughters, as was insisted on; but, on the contrary, from the contexture of the whole will, it seemed plain that the word estate was always, and particularly in the devise in question, used as descriptive only, and fynonymous with lands; so that, here, it would be putting a force on it, to make it carry a fee. And besides, the devise over to the testator's heirs, shewed that he thought he had a farther interest to dispose of after the devise to the daughters, to whom he did not feem to intend fo much as an estate tail.

The Word Hereditaments only passes an Estate for

Life.

§ 38. The word hereditaments only creates an estate for life in a will, for it does not denote the measure or Vol. VI. Y quantity 5 Term R. 259.-8.-503.

quantity of estate, as it has a proper and appropriate meaning, and extends to annuities, advowsons in gross, and many other things.

§ 39. There are several other cases where an estate for life only has been held to pass, by a devise which will be stated in the next chapter.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. XIV.

Construction.—Of the Rule in Shelley's Case.

- § 2. Applied in Devises of legal Estates.
 - 8. Though the Limitation to the Heirs be only mediate.
- 11. Though the Estate for Life arise by Implication.
- 13. Applied where the Word Heir in the Singular Number is used.
- 18. And where there are fuperadded Words to the Word Heirs.
- 23. And to Devises of Trust Estates.
- 31. And to Devises of Copyholds.
- 33. And to Devises of Terms for Tears.
- 34. Cases in which the Rule is not applied.
- 35. Where the Limitation is to Sons or Children.

- 40. Where Words of Explanation are added to the Word Heirs.
- 46. Where Words of Limitation are added to the Word Heir.
- 49. Heirs with Words limiting an Estate of a different Nature.
- 50. Where the Remainder is to the Heir for Life.
- 52. Where the Word Issue is used with Words of Limitation.
- 56. Unless the general Intent require a different Construction.
- 60. Where a Trust is created and a Conveyance directed.
- 69. Where the Estates are of different Natures.
- 73. Case of Perrin v. Blake.
- 75. Conclusion.

Section 1.

HE rule said down in Shelley's case, of the origin Tit. 32. c.25. and nature of which an account has been already given, having been established for purposes of general utility, has been adopted in the construction of devises, as well as in that of deeds. But it being a principle of law, that the intention of the testator is to be the chief guide

Fearne Cont. Rem. 290. 299. guide in the expounding of devises; it has been often doubted how far the application of this rule should be extended, in contradiction to the intention of the testator.

Applied in Devises of legal Estates.

§ 2. It has, however, been uniformly determined in all cases of devises of legal estates, that wherever lands are given to a person for life, or for any greater estate, with an immediate remainder to the heirs, or heirs of the body of such devisee, the words, "heirs," or heirs of the body," shall operate as words of limitation; and give the devisee an estate in see, or in tail.

Rundale v. Eeley, Cart. 170.

- § 3. A person devised lands to his son John, to hold to the said John for life; and after his decease then to the use and behoof of the heirs males of his body; and, for default of such issue to Robert and the heirs males of his body. It was resolved, that these words created an estate tail, as well in a will, as in any other conveyance. The estates could not stand together; but the estate for life was swallowed up in the estate tail; and the same rule held, where an estate of freehold was limited to a man for life, remainder to the heirs of his body; it was an estate tail in a devise as well as in a deed.
- § 4. Although it should appear from other circumssiances, besides an express devise for life, that the testator did not intend to give the first devisee a greater estate, such as a power to settle a jointure, with the concurrence of trustees; or an interposed estate to trustees

trustees to preserve contingent remainders; or a clause, that the devisee's estate should be without impeachment of waste; yet the courts have applied the rule, and given the devisee an estate of inheritance.

§ 5. A person devised lands to trustees and their Broughton v. heirs, to the intent and purpose that they should permit and fuffer A. to receive and take the rents and profits for and during the term of his natural life; and after his decease should stand seised of the same lands to the use of the heirs of the body of A. with a proviso, that the trustees and A. might make a jointure for his wife. It was determined, first, that this devise passed a legal, Tit. 12. c. 13 and not a trust estate. And, secondly, that. A took an estate tail.

Langley, 2 Ld. Raym.

§ 6. Lands were devised to B. for life, without im- Papillon v. peachment of waste; remainder to trustees and their heirs during the life of B. to support contingent re- 47° . mainders, remainder to the heirs of the body of B., remainder over.

Voice,

Sir Joseph Jekyll was of opinion, that an estate for life only passed to B., with remainder to the heirs of his body, by purchase. But, upon an appeal to Lord King, he faid the remainder to the heirs of the body of B. was within the general rule; and must operate as words of limitation, and consequently create a vested estate tail in B.; and that the breaking into this rule Perrin v. would occasion the utmost uncertainty.

Blake, infra.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xiv. \$ 7-9.

Sayer v.
Masterman,
Fearne Cont.
Rem. 250.
Amb. 344.

§ 7. A person devised in these words; "I give to my loving brother G. S. and the heirs of his body, the males having preference as aforesaid, and succeeding according to their births, and to preserve contingent remainders from being barred during the life of the said G. S. I give the said estates and farms to my said friend Dr. R. and on sailure of issue of the said G. S. I give the said estates and farms to my niece M. C."—The court referred to Lord King's opinion in Papillon v. Voice, that the limitation to trustees did not control the estate tail, and declared that G. S. was intitled to an estate tail.

Though the Limitation to the Heirs be only mediate.

§ 8. Where the remainder to the heirs, or heirs of of the body, of the devisee for life, is only mediate, by the interposition of some other estate; the devisee will take an estate in see or in tail, in remainder, to take essect in possession, upon the determination of the interposed estate; and the estate for life is not merged in the remainder.

Coulfon, Coulfon, 2 Atk. 247.

§ 9. Robert Bromley being intitled to a reversion in fee in certain lands, expectant on the death of Elizabeth Foster, devised the same to Robert Coulson for life; remainder to trustees during his life, to preserve contingent remainders; remainder to the heirs of the body of the said Robert Coulson; remainder over. The question was, what estate Robert Coulson took under this devise? The case having been sent by the Court of Chancery to the Court of King's Bench, the Judges of that court sent the following certificate.—
"We have heard counsel in the question referred by your Lordship to us; and, as it appears by the state

- to of the case, there is, after the determination of the
- estate for life of Robert Coulson, a devise to J. B.
- " and R. R. and their heirs, for and during the life of
- " Robert Coulson; we are of opinion, that by reason.
- of the remainder, interposing between the devise to
- " Robert for life and the subsequent limitation to the
- " heirs of his body, the said Robert took an estate for
- ce life, not merged by the devise, to the heirs of his
- 66 body; but by that devise an estate tail in remainder
- " vested in the said Robert."

Against this certificate the counsel cited 2 Roll. Ab. Forrest MSS. 418. pl. 4, 5. to prove the remainder to the heirs of the body contingent; but, after looking into the book, Lord Hardwicke paid no regard thereto; and decreed according to the Judges' opinions.

§ 10. Susan Jolland devised certain lands to the use and behoof of her sister Elizabeth, the wife of John Belchier, and her assigns, for and during the term of her natural life; and, after the determination of that estate, to the use of William Arnold and Isaac Pennington, and their heirs, during the life of the said Elizabeth; upon trust to preserve the contingent uses and estates therein after limited from defeated or destroyed; and for that purpose to make entries and bring actions, &c. and from and after her decease, then to the use and behoof of the heirs of the body of the faid Elizabeth lawfully issuing; and, for want of such issue, to the use and behoof of her sister Catherine Jolland spinster, in the same words as are used in the devise to Elizabeth. Elizabeth Belchier died in the lifetime of the testatrix; leaving issue one Y 4 daughter,

Hedgion v. Ambroie, Doug. 337. 3 Bro Parl. Ca. 416. daughter, Catherine Belchier: Upon the death of the testatrix, Catherine Jolland (who married one Hodgson) suffered a recovery of the premises. A question having arisen in the Court of Chancery respecting the construction of this will, a case was made for the opinion of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, upon the following questions:—" First, Whether Ca-" therine Belchier, the daughter of Elizabeth Belchier, "took any and what estate under the will of Susan "Jolland?—And secondly, What estate Catherine "Hodgson (late Jolland) took under the faid will?"— The Judges of the Court of King's Bench gave their opinion in the following words:—" If Elizabeth Bel-" chier would have taken an estate tail, in case she " had furvived the testatrix, we think by her dying " before the testatrix, it is a lapsed devise; and " Catherine, the daughter of Elizabeth, can take no-" thing."

"As to the question, whether Elizabeth would have taken an estate-tail, whatever our opinions might be if the case were new, we think as the case of Coulson v. Coulson is literally the same, the precise question ought not to be again litigated; and by that authority we are bound to say in the words of the certificate in that case, that as it appears by the state of the case, that there is, after the determination of the estate for life to Elizabeth Belchier, a devise to William Arnold and Isaac Pennington, and their heirs, for and during the life of Elizabeth Belchier, if she had survived the testatrix, would have taken

13

" an estate for life in the premises devised to her, not merged by the devise to the heirs of her body, but by that devise an estate tail in remainder would have vested in the said Elizabeth; consequently Catherine Belchier, the daughter of Elizabeth, took no estate unnder the will of Susan Jolland: but Catherine Hodgson, late Catherine Jolland, took an estate for life in all the devised premises, not merged by the devise to the heirs of her body; but by that devise an estate tail in remainder vested in the said Catherine Jolland."

The Lord Chancellor having decreed in conformity to this certificate, an appeal was brought in the House of Lords; and the following questions were put to the Judges; First, "Whether Catherine Belchier, the " daughter of Elizabeth Belchier, took any and what estate under the will of Susan Jolland?" Secondly, What estate Catherine Hodgson, late Jolland, took " under the faid will?" And the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer having delivered the unanimous opinion of the Judges present, upon the first question, that Catherine Belchier took no estate under the will of Susan Jolland; and, upon the second question, that Catherine Hodgson, late Jolland, took an estate for. life in all the premises, not merged by the devise to the heirs of her body; and that by that devise an estate tail in remainder vested in the said Catherine Jolland: it was ordered and decreed, that the appeal should be dismissed, and the decree therein complained of affirmed.

Thong v. Bedford, 1 Bro. Rep. 313.

Though the Estate for Life arise by Implication.

§ 11. Though no estate for life be expressly devised, but only arises by implication, yet the rule will be applied.

Hayes v. Foord, 2 Black R. 698.

§ 12. John Foorde made his will, having then two fons, Rawlinson and William, and a brother Nicholas; who had then also two sons, James and Nicholas: and gave his real estate to his eldest son Rawlinson, at his age of twenty-three, "to enjoy the whole during his " life. And the whole estate (of which he is only " tenant for life) shall, after his decease, go to his " eldest son that shall be then living; and if he dies "without any fon or fons to enjoy it, (of which none " are or shall be tenants, but while they live to enjoy "it,) that then it shall come to his brother William. "Foorde during his life, and to any of his heirs males "during their lives, and no longer; and, if they die "without iffue male, then to the heirs males of my " brother Nicholas Foorde's sons, and to any of their "heirs males during their lives, of which none of them " are tenants any longer, nor shall it be in any of their " powers to fell, dispose, or make away, any part or " the whole of it); and, in case they all die without "heirs male, then it is to go to the next of kin of me."

At the same time and with the same solemnities, the testator published a schedule referred to in the said will; and which the special verdict sound to be part of his will, containing a very particular account of all his real and personal estate; the title to which schedule was, in these words:—" An account, how I dispose of

- my estate to my son Rawlinson Foorde, as followeth;
- " he paying his mother out of my real estate the sum
- 15 l. per annum, during her life, and 24 l. per annum
- out of my mortgages; and then all to revert to my
- fon Rawley Foorde during his life, and after his death
- to his fons; and for want of fons to his brother
- William Foorde during his life, and after his death
- to his fons; and, for want of fons to his brother
- William Foorde during his life, and afterwards to
- William Foorde's eldest son, and for want of his
- 44 having sons to my brother Nicholas Foorde's sons;
- and for want of any eldest sons, to my eldest son's
- daughters, and so to the next of kin."

Rawlinson and William, the two sons of the testator, died without issue male. James, the eldest nephew died before William the son; and, upon William's death, Nicholas the youngest nephew entered and suffered a recovery.

On this special verdict the question was, whether Nicholas the nephew took an estate for life or in tail, under the will and schedule. The Court of King's Bench in Ireland was of opinion, that he took only an estate for life.

Upon a writ of error, Lord Mansfield delivered the opinion of the court—"That the only doubt was,

- "whether by the words of the will Nicholas the
- " nephew of the testator, took any estate by implica-
- "tion? That this doubt was removed by the schedule,
- which expressly gives an estate to the sons of his

66 brother

- ce brother Nicholas Foorde. That, therefore, Nicholas
- the nephew took an estate for life by implication,
- " thus explained; which being conjoined to the estate,
- " expressly given to his heirs males, will, by the
- " known rules of law, give him an estate in tail mate."

Applied where the Word Heir, in the Singular Number, is used.

§ 13. Although the limitation be to the heir, in the fingular number, yet the rule will be applied, and the first devisee will be construed to take an estate tail.

Burley's Case, 1 Vent. 230. § 14. Thus, Lord Hale says, it was adjudged in 43 Eliz. that a devise to A. for life, remainder to the next heir male, and, for default of such heir male, then to remain over, was an estate tail.

Wilkins v.
Whiting,
1 Roll. Ab.
836.
Bulft. 219.
2 Vern. 324.

§ 15. A person devised lands to his youngest son for ever, and, after his death, to the heir male of his body for ever, and, for default of such heir male, to E. his eldest son for ever. It was resolved, that the youngest son took an estate tail.

Miller v. Seagrave, Rob. Gav. 96. \$ 16. Thus, in a case cited by Mr. Robinson, where there was a devise to Serjeant Miller and his wife for their lives, remainder to the next heir male of their two bodies, it was held, that this was a devise in tail; for a devise to the heir male is a devise in tail, unless there are words of limitation superadded, so as to bring it within the reason of Archer's case. But the words, "first, next, or eldest," or any like words superadded, made no difference.

Infra.

§ 17. Sir T. Trollop devised the manor of A. to his first son William for life, remainder to the heirs males of his body, remainder to his second son Thomas for life, and, after his death, to the first heir male of his body. The court held, that the words, "heir male," were to be understood collectively, and that Thomas, the second son, took an estate tail; it appearing, that such was the testator's intention by the other devises. And this stood distinguished from Archer's case, no limitation being superadded to the words "first heir male;" and the word "first" should be understood first in order of succession from time to time.

Dubber v. Trollop, Rob. Gav. 96. Amb. 453.

§ 18. A devise to the heirs, or heirs of the body of a prior devisee for life, with superadded words of limitation, will be construed within the rule in Shelley's case.

And also where there are superadded Words to the Word of Heirs."

§ 19. A person devised to Nicholas Lisle for his life, and, after the decease of the said Nicholas, he devised the same unto the heirs males of the body of the said Nicholas lawfully to be begotten, and his heirs for ever; but, if the said Nicholas should happen to die without such heir male, then he devised over. The Judges were all of opinion, that this was an estate tail in Nicholas: and they held, that if the subsequent words relied on as his, and, if he died without such beir male, were not sufficient to restrain and alter the operation of the words "heirs males," and so qualify them as to make them a description of the person; and that the operation of plain and clear words, and a settled rule of law, should not be deseated, or broke into,

Goodright v. Pullyn, 2 Ld. Raym. 1437. 2 Stra. 729. by uncertain or doubtful words, which they took the last at least to be.

§ 20. The following case was sent by the Lord Keeper to the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for their opinion:

Legate v. Sewell, IP, Wms. 87.

George Legate devised his lands, in default of iffue of his own body, unto his nephew William Legate, for and during the term of his natural life, and, after his decease, to the heirs male of the body of his said nephew lawfully to be begotten, and the heirs males of the body of every fuch heir male, severally and succesfively as they should be in priority of birth; and, for. want of such issue, to his brother, &c. Whether William Legate the nephew had an estate tail vested in him, or an estate for life only, in the lands to him devised? Three of the Judges were of opinion, that William Legate had an estate tail vested in him: and Mr. Justice Tracey certified, that he had only an estate for life. Mr. Peere Williams says, that the court, appearing not to be fatisfied with the certificate of the three Judges, directed an ejectment to be brought in B. R. in order to have the matter settled; but that it was said the parties agreed, and so the question was not determined. Yet, in 2 Vesey 657, Lord Hardwicke says, that Lord Cowper held himself bound to agree with the three Judges, and so decreed,

Minshull v. Minshull, 1 Atk. 411.

§ 21. Thomas Wardell, seised in see, had issue a daughter named Lucretia, and by his will devised thus:— "I give and bequeath unto my daughter Lu-

Morris v. Ward, 8 Term R. 518. 2 Burr. 1102.

cretia,

cretia, wife of G. Andrews, all my plantation, together with the negroes, &c. charged, &c. during the natural life of my said daughter. Item, I bequeath to the heirs of the body of my faid daughter Lucretia, begotten or to be begotten, and to his or her heirs for ever, after my said daughter's decease, all my before mentioned plantations, &c.; but, for want of such heirs of the body of my faid daughter, I also give and bequeath the aforesaid premises, after the decease of my faid daughter, to my own next heirs, and their heirs, for ever. This case came before the Privy Council upon an appeal from Barbadoes; and the following reasons were used in the printed case. "It is a gene-" ral rule of law, that, when an estate is limited to one for life, a limitation afterwards to the heirs of the body of that same person creates an estate tail: and, though this be in the case of a will, there is no " reason to depart from that rule; for, if Lucretia were construed to have an estate for life only, then "the remainder to the heirs of her body would be-"words of purchase. And then, though she had se-" veral fons, yet the eldest only would have been heir, and the younger fons would never have taken "under that limitation; though it was clearly the " testator's intention, that all her sons should take, by " using the word beirs, in the plural number. "the subsequent clause, for want of such heirs of " the body of my faid daughter, to my own next heirs and their heirs for ever,' is a further explanation of his meaning, that his daughter should take an estate " tail, with a remainder to his own right heirs." (Signed) N. Fazakerly, D. Ryder. This was heard before

before the Privy Council 18th March 1730; when it was ruled, that Lucretia took an estate tail. The Chief Justices, Raymond and Eyre, assisted at the decision; judgment was assirmed. And Lord Kenyon has said, that, though the above were only the reasons of the counsel in that case, they contained as much good sense and sound law, as if they had had the authority of all the judges of England.

§ 22. There are, however, some cases, in which superadded words of limitation may controul the word heirs, so as to render them words of purchase; of which, an account will be given hereafter.

And also to
Devises of
Trust Estates.
Sweetaple v.
Bindon,
Tit. 5. c. 2.
s. 18.

§ 23. In devises of trust estates, the construction is the same in the Court of Chancery as it would be in a court of common law, upon a devise of legal estate: so that the rule in Shelley's case is there applied to the construction of devises, as well as at law.

Bale v. Coleman, 1 P. Wms. 142. \$ 24. One devised lands to four persons and their heirs for payment of debts, and, afterwards, to the use of them and their heirs; after which, by a codicil, he devised that his will should stand, saving that, when his debts were paid, A., who was one of the four devisees in the will, should have his share of the lands to himself for life, with a power to make leases for 99 years determinable on three lives, remainder to the heirs male of his body, remainder over. Lord Cowper was of epinion, that A. ought to be tenant for life only, with remainder to his first and other sons in tail male: but, the case coming on before Lord Harcourt

on a rehearing, his Lordship said,—" This being the " case of a will, differs from the several cases that " have been cited of marriage articles, in the nature " of which, the issue are particularly considered, and " looked upon as purchasers; and for which reason, " the court has restrained the general expressions made " use of by the parties: for it cannot reasonably be "fupposed, that a valuable consideration would be se given for the settlement of an estate, which, as soon as settled, the husband might destroy. But no case has been cited, where, upon the words of a will, " or the parties claim voluntarily, the like decree has " been made. In all such cases, the testator's intent " must be presumed to be consistent with the rules of " law; and, at law, these words would certainly " create an intail: neither can it be inferred, with any " certainty, from the power of leasing given by the " testator, that no estate tail was intended; in regard, "fuch power of leasing is more beneficial than that " given to tenant in tail by statute. 'And as the debts " are admitted by the pleadings to be all paid, the " same construction is now to be made, as if there " had been originally no trust. So decree A.'s share " or fourth part to be conveyed to him, and the heirs. " male of his body, remainder over," &c.

§ 25. The doctrine laid down in the preceding case was contradicted, in fact, by Lord Hardwicke, in the case of Bag/baw v. Spencer, which was a devise of trust estate to B. B. for his natural life, without impeachment of waste, remainder to trustees to preserve contingent remainders, remainder to the use and behoof of the heirs of the body of B. B. begotten, and, for Vol. VI.

Collect. Jur. v. 1. 378.

want of such issue, then over. And he held that B. B. took an estate for life only: for, if a conveyance had been prayed, there must have been a limitation to trustees, to preserve contingent remainders; and then the next limitation must have been to the first and other sons of B. B. in tail general. But this case is now not held to be any authority, as it was contradicted by Lord Northington, in a case which will be stated hereafter, and also by a determination of Lord Thurlow.

Vide Fearne Cont. Rem. 195.

Garth v. Baldwin, 2 Vef. 646.

§ 26. Sir Edward Turner devised all his real estate to Charles Baldwin, in trust to pay the rents to Sarab Garth for her life, and, after her death, to pay the fame to Edward Turner Garth her son for life, and afterwards to pay the same to the heirs of his body. Lord Hardwicke said, that, upon the construction of this will, he was obliged, by the rules of law and equity, to direct the conveyance to be to the fon in tail; because, in limitations of a trust, either of real or personal estate, to be determined in the Court of Chancery, the construction ought to be made according to the construction of limitations of a legal estate; with this distinction, unless the intent of the restator, or author of the trust, plainly appears to the contrary. But, if the intent does not plainly appear to contradict and overrule the legal construction of the limitation, it was never laid down, nor was it by him in the case of Bag shaw and Spencer, that the legal construction should be overruled by any thing but the plain intent. he was not, in a court of equity, to overrule the legal construction of the limitation; unless the intent of the testator,

testator, or author of the trust, appeared by declaration plain, that is, not saying it in so many words, but plain expression, or necessary implication of his intent, which was the same thing.

§ 27. Henry Rayney having five grandchildren, devised all his freehold estates to trustees and their heirs; in trust to raise a sum of money for his grandchildren, and subject thereto, to the use of his nephew T. Rayney and his assigns for his life, remainder to trustees to preserve contingent remainders, remainder to the use of the heirs male of the said T. Rayney begotten; and their heirs: provided, that in case the said T. Rayney should die without leaving any issue male of his body living at his death, then, and in such case, he subjected the premises to the payment of 100 l. a piece to his two nieces; and, for default of such issue male of his faid nephew T. Rayney, then as to all the premises, to his five grandchildren, or such as should be living at the time of the failure of issue male of the said T. Rayney, their heirs and assigns: provided, that the said T. Rayney should be put out apprentice to a surgeon, or sent to Cambridge; and in case he should refuse to be an apprentice, or to go to Cambridge, then his will was, that the estate, so before limited to the said T. Rayney for his life, should cease and determine, and be void, as if he had been dead; and that the faid premises, so limited to the said Thomas for his life and his issue male as aforesaid, should from thenceforth revert over, and go to such of his grandchildren as should be living, and to their heirs. Thomas Rayney died \mathbf{Z}_{2}

Wright v.
Pearlon,
Amb. R. 358.
Fearne Cont.
Rem. 187.

died without issue, having suffered a recovery of the premises.

Lord Keeper Henley thought that Thomas Rayney took an estate tail, from the intent of the testator; who plainly intended the heirs male, &c. should not take an estate in see, which they must, if they took as purchasers. He was considering, he said, whether he could not make this construction, viz. to Thomas for life, then to his heirs male in tail, then to the grandchildren. And, if the limitation had been, for default of such heirs of the body, he might have considered it as heirs of the body of the heirs male, &c. mentioned before: but the limitation there was, for default of such issue male, &c. He thought the words, " and " their beirs," in the will, were redundant and furplusage; and that Thomas Rayney took an estate tail, and, consequently, that the recovery suffered by him was good. And though it was a rule never to reject words in a will, if they could stand, yet he must do it in this case, to support the testator's intent.

Taylor, Amb. 376.

§ 28. John Holman gave all his estate to trustees and their heirs, to the uses, trusts, and purposes therein mentioned; first to the intent, that his fisters should receive an annuity for their lives, and subject thereto, in trust for the plaintiff for life, remainder to trustees to preserve, &c. remainder to the heirs of the body of the plaintiff, remainder to his own right heirs. he also gave the residue of his personal estate to trustees, in trust to buy lands in fee, which he directed should remain, continue, and be, to, for, and upon fuch

13

fuch and the like estate and estates, trusts, intents, and purposes, as were by him before devised, limited, or declared of and concerning his lands and premises therein-before devised, or as near thereto as might be, and the deaths of persons would admit. Upon a bill to have the residue laid out according to the will, the question was, Whether the plaintist was entitled to an estate for life, or in tail, in the lands to be purchased?

Lord Keeper Henley said, the question arose upon the intent of the testator. It was argued, that if the intent was plain, yet, if the testator had used words which, by the rules of law, imported a different fignification, the rule of law, and not the intent, would prevail; but there was no fuch rule applicable to this case. In case of a will, the intent should prevail, if not contrary to law; the meaning of which was, if the limitations were such as the law allowed; but did not mean that the words must be taken in such signification as the law imposed on them. If words which, in consideration of law, were generally taken to be words of limitation, appeared in a will to be very plainly intended as words of purchase, they should be considered as such, both in courts of law and equity. But the safe way to determine property, was to use words in the most known sense, unless it appeared plainly that the testator meant them in some other,

Decreed, that the plaintiff was entitled to an estate tail.

Jones v. Morgan, 1 Bro. Rep. 206.

§ 29. Sir William Morgan devised an estate to trustees to raise money in aid of his personal estate, for the payment of his debts, and, after payment thereof, then to stand seised to the use of his son William for and during the term of his natural life, without impeachment of waste; and from and after his decease, to the use and behoof of the heirs male of the body of his faid son William lawfully to be begotten, severally, respectively, and in remainder, one after another, as they and every of them should be in priority of birth and seniority of age; and, for default of such issue, to any after-born fon he might have; with a power, while in possession, of leasing, making a jointure, and raising portions for younger children. The question was, Whether William the son took an estate in tail, or for life only?

Lord Thurlow said, he could not distinguish this case from that of Wright v. Pearson, with which the case of Bagshaw v. Speneer could not stand. It had been contended that, however it might be at law, it should be construed otherwise in equity, for that the whole see was given to the trustees, as it might be necessary for the payment of the debts; but after payment of the debts, the testator did not mean to leave any thing executory: no, the trustees were to stand seised to the subsequent uses. If this was not a legal estate, it was only not so, because the first use might absorb the whole estate; then the only question was, whether, under the cases decided, he must consider this point as being different in the case of legal and equitable estates. In Garth v. Baldwin, the construction restored the law,

that trusts were to be considered in the same manner as legal estates. If that were so, there could not be a more proper case to apply the rule than this, as there could be nothing so near to a legal estate as the present; he thought therefore the same rule of construction must apply in equity as at law, and decreed that William took an estate tail.

- § 30. Where the Court of Chancery is called upon to direct a conveyance to be made under a will, the construction has been different; of which an account will be given hereafter.
- § 31. The rule in Shelley's case has been applied in the construction of devises of copyholds, as where a person who had surrendered his copyhold to the use of his will, devised it to B. for life, and after his death to the heir of his body begotten. It was held that the word heir being nomen collectivum was equivalent to the word heirs, in the plural number; and so B. took a fee executed, and his heir should have it by descent, and not by purchase. Lord Ch. Baron Gilbert has observed on this case that it must have been meant of a fee tail, because the heirs were restrained to the body of B.

And to Devises of Copyholds, Tit. 37. c. 1. Lawfey v. Lowdell, 2 Roll. Ab. 253. pl. 4.

§ 32. In ejectment the Chief Justice ruled this case. A. surrendered a copyhold estate to the use of his will, and then devised it to B. for life, and after his decease 445. to the heirs of his body. B. died in the lifetime of the And it was held that his heir could take Vide ch. 8. nothing, **Z** 4

Busby v. Grunslate, 1 Stra. R.

nothing, for it was a devise in tail to B. and the words, heirs of his body were words of limitation.

And to Deviles of Terms for Years, Fearne Ex. Dev. 300.

S 33. The rule in Shelley's case has also been applied in the construction of devises of terms for years; and therefore if a term be devised to A. for life, and afterwards to the heirs of his body, these words are generally words of limitation, and the whole vests in the first taker. But if there appears any other circumstance or clause in the will to shew the intention that these words should be words of purchase, and not of limitation, then it seems the ancestor takes for life only, and his heir will take by purchase.

Cases in which the Rule is not applied.

§ 34. As the intention of the testator has always been allowed to be the guide in the construction of wills, where it is not repugnant to any rule of law; several cases have arisen, in which the rule in Shelley's case has not been applied.

Where the Limitation is to Sons or Children.

- § 35. The rule in Shelley's ease does not apply to the words "fons," or "children;" and therefore a devise to A. for life, with remainder to his sons or children, or to his first and other sons or children, gives an estate for life only to A.
- § 36. Thus, Lord Hale has cited a case, stated in Roll. Ab. 837. pl. 13. where a person devised to his eldest son for life, (et non aliter) and after his decease to the sons of his body; and it was held to be an estate for life only in the son. And the usual mode of creating a strict settlement by will is, to devise to the eldest

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xiv. § 36-39. eldest son for life, with remainder to his first and other sons successively, and to the heirs male of their

bodies.

§ 37. A person devised his estate to his son for life, and after his decease to the male children of the said son, successively, one after another as they were in 348. priority of age, and to their heirs; and, in default of such male children, he gave the same to the semale children of the said son, and their heirs; and, in case the faid fon should die without issue, then he devised the premises to his grandson in see. It was resolved, 1st, That the devisee did not take an immediate estate tail by the devise to his male and female children. And 2d, That, under the words—" in case the said son " should die without issue," he did not take an estate tail by implication in remainder, after the limitation to his children.

Ginger v. Wuite, Willes Rep.

§ 38. A will was made in these words—" My will is, that my fon shall have and enjoy the manor of B. only for his life, and then the premises shall descend 592. and come to his male children, if he have any, for their natural lives only, and to the male children descending from them." It was resolved, that the son took an estate for life only.

Goodtitle v. Wodhull, Willes Rep.

§ 39. A person devised a house to his son for his life, Goodright v. and after his death unto all and every his children equally and to their heirs; and, in case he died without issue, he gave the premises to his daughters. It was admitted, that the son took an estate for life only.

Doug. 264.

\$ 40. Where

WhereWords of Explanation are added to the Word Heirs.

§ 40. Where an estate is devised to a person and his heirs, or to the heirs of his body, and there are words of explanation annexed to the word heirs; from whence it may be collected that the testator meant to qualify the meaning of the word "heirs," and not to use it in its technical sense, but as a description of the person or persons to whom he intended to give his estate after the death of the first devisee, the word "heirs," will in that case operate as a word of purchase.

Lowe v. Davies, 2 Ld. Raym. 1561. § 41. A person devised to his son B. I., and his heirs lawfully to be begotten, that is to say; to his sirst, second, third, and every son and sons lawfully to be begotten of the body of the said B. and the heirs of the body of such first, second, third, and every son and sons seccessively, lawfully issuing; and in default of such issue then to his right heirs for ever. It was resolved, that B. I. took only an estate for life; the word "heirs" being sully explained by the subsequent words to be a word of purchase.

Doe v. Laming, 2 Burr. 1100. 1 Black. R. 265. Rob, Gav.95. § 42. Lands held in gavelkind were devised to Ann Cornish and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten or to be begotten, as well females as males, and to their heirs and assigns for ever, to be divided equally, share and share alike, as tenants in common and not as joint-tenants.

Lord Mansfield said, that the devise could not take effect at all, but would be absolutely void, unless the heirs of the body of Ann Cornish took as purchasers.

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The lands devised were gavelkind; and it was manifest the testator did not mean that his estate should go in a course of descent in gavelkind, for he gave it to the heirs of the body of A. C. as well females as males; therefore, they could not take otherwise than as purchasers. It would be a void devise, if the words were to be construed as words of limitation; for the testator breaks the gavelkind descent by giving it to semales as well as males. He likewise added—"and to their heirs and assigns for ever, to be divided equally, share and share alike."—Nay, he went farther, "as tenants in common and not as joint-tenants." But this could not be, if they were to take in a course of gavelkind descent; for in such case they must have taken as coparceners. Upon the whole, as no man could doubt of the testator's intention, and as this was the only method of effectuating it; and as there was no rule of law that prevented heirs taking as purchasers, where the intention of the testator required it, so he was of opinion that the words, "heirs of the body," were words of purchase. Judgement was given accordingly.

§ 43. A person devised to trustees to the use of, and Goodtitle v. in trust for her sister Margaret Davie and her assigns, Herring,
1 East. 264. during her natural life, without impeachment of waste, remainder to the same trustees to preserve contingent remainders; and from and after her decease then to the use of and in trust for the heirs male of the body of the said Margaret, to be begotten, severally and fuceessively and in remainder one after another, as they and any of them should be in seniority of age and priority

priority of birth, the elder of such sons and the heirs male of his body lawfully iffuing being always preferred, and to take before the younger of such son and fons, and the heirs male of his and their body and bodies: and for want and in default of fuch iffue, then to the use of and in trust for all and every the daughter and daughters of the body of the said Margaret to be begotten, to be equally divided amongst them if more than one, share and share alike, to take as tenants in common and not as joint tenants, and of the feveral and respective heirs of the body and bodies of such daughter and daughters, and in default of such issue, &c.

Lord Kenyon faid, he had not the smallest doubt

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upon the case; the intention was most obvious to give the first taker only an estate for life; but, if that intention could not be carried into effect without shaking a positive rule of law, he should certainly bow to the The case of Coulson v. Coulson went on that ground, and so afterwards did Perryn v. Blake in the Exchequer Chamber, where the judges thought that, after the rule of law in Shelley's case had governed so many subsequent decisions, however impersect in itself as a rule for construing the intention of a testator, it was necessary to abide by it. That rule however was only established to the extent in which it was to be 1 Rep. 104 b. found in Shelley's case, to this effect; that if an estate of freehold be given to a man, and either mediately or immediately in any part of the same instrument an estate was limited to the heirs of his body, the latter limitation would unite with the former and give him

an estate tail. But it never had been decided, that those words might not be otherwise explained in the will by the testator himself: they were so explained in . Lowe v. Davis. The estate, which was the subject of Aute f At. dispute in Lowe v. Davis, came afterwards to a gentleman, who was not perfectly fatisfied with the decision, and would have it canvassed again. His doubts were founded upon an old opinion which he had discovered of Lord Holt's; that the words, "heirs of the body," were so positive to give an estate tail to the first taker, that they could not be gotten rid of, by subsequent words. That opinion he had feen; but it was certainly too straight laced a construction; and nobody had ever doubted but that the case of Lowe v. Davis was rightly decided. That case however, if it wanted confirmation, had been fortified by the subsequent decision in Doe v. Laming. The court there clearly Antes. 42. thought that the subsequent words, "as well females as males," shewed that the testator meant the words "heirs of the body," &c. to be words of description of the persons, who he intended should next take, and not to words of limitation: and therefore Margaret took only an estate for life.

Mr. Justice Lawrence said, the question was whether "heirs male of the body of Margaret," was descriptive of the persons, whom the testatrix afterwards called " fon or fons:" of the intention there could be no She first gave Margaret an express estate for life, without impeachment of waste; then to trustees to preserve contingent remainders; then, after Margaret's decease, to the heirs male of her body to be begotten,

begotten, severally, successively, and in remainder one after another, &c. All this was unnecessary, if the testatrix meant to give Margaret an estate tail: but then she went on-" the elder of such sons and the "heirs male of his body to be preferred before the "younger of fuch fon and fons;" evidently meaning the same persons whom she had before described as heirs male of the body of Margaret: therefore this fell directly within the case of Lowe v. Davis, and was the same as if the testatrix had said, "by heirs male of the body I mean the eldest son and heirs male of " Margaret." And if she had said so in as many words, it could not be questioned but that the former words must have had that construction put upon them: now the words made use of were in effect the same. Then the testatrix proceeded to give an estate to the daughters of Margaret in the same manner; that also shewed, that by the words, "fuch fon or fons," she meant the same persons whom she had before described as the heirs male of Margaret; for she first provided for the sons and then for the daughters of the first taker. It was no answer to say, that by this construction, if the eldest son of Margaret had died in the lifetime of the testatrix leaving a son, the devise would have lapfed, and the grandfon been difinherited: for, if the obvious meaning of the will was, that Margaret should only take for life, they could not enlarge that estate, in order to prevent a possible inconvenience. Judgement was given, that Margaret took an estate for life only.

Upon a writ of error from this judgement to the House of Lords, the following question was put to the Judges-What estate Margaret Davie took? and the Lord Chief Baron delivered their unanimous opinion that Margaret Davie took an estate for life. Whereupon the judgement was affirmed.

§ 44. In a subsequent case, however, which resembled the last one in several respects, the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas did not think they could restrain the legal effect of the words, "heirs of the "body;" so as to convert them into words of purchase.

§ 45. Lands were devised to trustees and their heirs, Poole v. to the use of them and their heirs, in trust for the use and benefit of the testator's first son by Lucy his wife 620. during his life, and also upon trust to preserve the contingent remainders from being defeated or destroyed; and after his decease to the several heirs male of such first son lawfully issuing, so as the elder of such sons and the heirs male of his body should always be preferred and take before the younger and the heirs male. of his body; and, for want of such issue, in trust for his second, third, fourth, and all and every other son and sons for their respective lives, with remainders as before; and for want of such issue, in trust for his first daughter, and every other his daughter and daughters, for their several and respective lives; and also upon trust to preserve the contingent remainders from being defeated and destroyed; and, from and after their several deceases, in trust for the several heirs male

Poole, 3 Bof. & Pul. male of their several and respective bodies lawfully issuing, so as the elder of such daughters and the several heirs male of her body should always be preferred and take before the younger of the same daughters, and the heirs male of her and their bodies; with power to the persons, who should be intitled to the possession of his said estates, to settle jointures: And, as to all the testator's real and personal estate, on failure of such issue by him as aforesaid, and not otherwise, he gave the same to the said trustees and their heirs, to the use of them and their heirs, in trust for A. P. for his life; and also upon trust to preserve the contingent remainders therein after limited; and, after his decease, in trust for the first and every other son and sons of the body of the said A. P. successively as they should be in priority of birth, and the several heirs of their respective bodies, so as the elder of such fons and the heirs of his body should always be preferred and take before the younger of the faid sons, and the heirs of his and their bodies; and, for want of such issue of A. P. in the same manner, and for want of fuch issue to J. P. M. and his heirs for ever. The Judges of the Court of Common Pleas certified to the Lord Chancellor, that if the devises contained in the will, to the children of the testator and their issue, had been devises of legal estates, the only son of the testator would have taken an estate in tail male; there not appearing upon the whole will together sufficient indication of the testator's intention to restrain the legal effect of the words, "heirs male of the body," and to convert them into words of purchase.

§ 46. Where words of limitation are superadded to the word "heir," in the singular number, from which it appears to have been the intention of the testator to denote by the word "heir," a new stock and root of inheritance, it will be construed a word of purchase; and the first devisee will take an estate for life only.

Where Words of Limitation are added to the Word Heir. Tit.32. c.25. 1. 31.

§ 47. Francis Archer, being seised in fee of land, Archer's Case, by his will in writing devised the same to Robert Archer the father for his life, and afterwards to the next heir male of Robert, and to the heirs males of the body of fuch next heir male. It was agreed by Anderson, Walmsley, and the rest of the court, that Robert had but an estate for life; because Robert had an express estate for life devised to him, and the remainder was limited to the next heir male of Robert in the fingular number.

1 Rep. 60 b.

§ 48. A man devised land to R. his daughter for life; and if she married after his decease and had heir of her body, that then that heir should have it after her death, and the heirs of her body. Adjudged, that the daughter had only an estate for life, and the inheritance was in her heir by purchase, resting in abeyance all her life, and fettling at the instant of her death.

Clarke v. Day, Moor. 593.

§ 49. Mr. Fearne has observed, that there may posfibly be some cases, where the superadded words of limitation may be admitted to controll the preceding words, heirs, heirs male, &c. though in the plural number; when such superadded words limit an estate

Heirs with Words, limit ing an Estate of a different Nature. Cont. Rem,

VOL. VI.

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to such heirs, heirs male, &c. of a different nature, from that, which the ancestor would take, if the preceding words "heirs male," &c. in those cases were taken as words of limitation. As in the case, put by Anderfon, of a limitation to the use of a man for life, and after his decease to the use of his heirs, and the heirs females of their bodies: here the first word heirs would have given a fee to the ancestor, if taken as a word of limitation; whereas the subsequent words, " and the heirs female of their bodies," grafted on the word "heirs," could give only an eftate tail female to the heirs. In such cases, the general effect of the first words, "heirs of the body," &c. seems to be altered, abridged, and qualified, by fuch subsequent express words of limitation annexed to them, as cannot possibly be satisfied by considering the first words as words of limitation. But we must take care to confine this observation to those cases, where the ingrafted words describe an estate descendible in a different course, and to different persons as special heirs, from what the first would carry the estate to; viz. to males instead of females, or vice versa; for, where the first words give an estate tail general, and the words ingrafted thereon are words serving to limit the fee, it feems by the general and better opinion, that the annexed words of limitation are not to be attended to, as in the cases of Goodright v. Pullyn, Wright v. Pearson, and King v. Burchell, where the ingrafted words limited the whole fee. Indeed, there does not appear to be the same inconsistency in construing the first words, which describe heirs special, to be words of limitation, where the superadded words extend to heirs

Ante. Infra. heirs special; as there is, where the first words, and those ingrasted on them, distinguish two different incompatible courses of descent, and would not carry the estate to the same persons. In the latter case, it is absolutely impossible, by any implied qualification, to reconcile the superadded words to those preceding them, so as to satisfy both, by construing the first as words of limitation: whereas, in the former case, the superadded words are not contrary to, or incompatible with, the preceding, but in their general sense include them; and there is no improbability in the supposition, that they were used by the testator in the same qualified sense as the preceding; and then both may be satisfied, by taking the first as words of limitation.

5 50. Where the remainder is given to the heir of the first devisee, for life only, the first devisee will take to more than an estate for life.

Where the Remainder is to the Heir for Life.

give to my son Frank Mildmay my farm, called East House Farm, &c. to enjoy the rents and profits thereof during the term of his natural life, with power to make a jointure of all or part if he should marry; and after his death and jointure, if any be made, to the heirs male of his body lawfully be gotten, during the term of his natural life; and for want of such heir male I give the said farm to my son Carew Mildmay," &c. It was agreed that the limitation to F. M. to enjoy and take the profits during his life, and after his decease, to the heirs male of his body, would make an estate tail. So, if

White v. Collins, Com. Rep. 389.

Ante.

it had been to the heir male of his body in the singular number, where nothing appeared which explained the intent to the contrary: but here the intention appeared to be that such heir male should have the land only for life, which shewed that the testator did not intend that those words should be taken as words of limitation; and nothing appeared in the nature of the expression, which imported that they should be taken so. male or next heir male were words of purchase, and in this case where the devise was to F. M. and after his decease to the heir male of his body during his life, the express limitation during his life shewed that he intended his fon should have it in remainder for his life only, and when he devised it over for want of such heir male to C. M. this did not import that C. M. should not have it till F. M. died without heirs male generally, but for want of such heir male who was to have it for life.

Where the Word "issue" is used with Words of Limitation.
Tit. 32. c. 25. f. 30.

\$ 52. Where an estate is devised to a person for life, with remainder to his issue, with words of limitation superadded, the word "issue" will in that case be construed to be a word of purchase.

Loddington v. Kyme, 1 Ld. Raym. 203. § 53. Sir Michael Armyn devised certain lands to Evers Armyn for life, and in case he should have any issue male, then to such issue male and his heirs for ever: And, if he should die without issue male, then he devised over. It was agreed by all the judges, that Evers Armyn had but an estate for life; and that the issue male of Evers Armyn, if there had been any, would have taken a see by purchase. For, first, they held,

held, that though the word "iffue" was fometimes construed as heirs, and as a word of limitation, yet, in a devise, it might be a word of purchase as well as of limitation: when it was taken as a word of limitation, it was collective, and fignified all the descendants in all generations; but when it was taken as a word of purchase, it might denote a particular person, and be designatio persona. The second question, then, would be. Whether the intention of the testator appeared, that the word "iffue" should be designation personæ, or whether he designed it to be a word of limitation? And they held, that the testator designed it to be a description of the person; because he added a farther limitation to the issue, viz. and to the heirs of fuch iffue for ever.

§ 54. A will was made in these words: — "To the Backhouse intent that all my lands should remain in my name " and blood, I devise to J. S. my near kinsman such " and fuch lands, &c. to have and to hold for the "term of his natural life only, without impeachment " of waste, then to the issue male of his body lawfully " to be begotten, if God shall bless him with such issue, " remainder to the heirs male of the body of that

" iffue."

10 Mod. 181.

Lord Chief Justice Parker delivered the opinion of the whole court, that the devisee was made tenant for life, remainder to the issue in tail. The words of the will, he said, were so express to this purpose, that neither any words that could have been used, nor any arguments, could make it plainer. This, he said, was A, a, 3 both

358 Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. xiv. \$ 54-56.

both the obvious and the legal sense of the words, and what they would have imported in a conveyance.

Doe v. Collis,
1 Term Rep.
294.

§ 55. J. Newson devised a moiety of certain lands, after the death of his wife, to his daughter Susannah, during the term of her natural life, and, after her decease, to the issue of her body lawfully begotten, and their heirs for ever. Susannah had one daughter born before the will was made, and two born after.

Lord Kenyon faid that, in a will, "iffue" was either a word of purchase or of limitation, as would best answer the intention of the devisor; though, in the case of a deed, "iffue" was universally taken as a word of purchase; therefore, without disputing any of the former cases, but, on the contrary, in confirmation of them all, and relying upon them for the soundation of this judgment, namely, that the intention of the devisor must prevail, he was of opinion, that the devisor, in this case, used "issue" as a word of purchase, and, consequently, that the children of Susannah took a fee.

Doe v. Burnfell, 6 Term. Rep. 30.

S 56. It has been stated in a former chapter (12.)

general Intent
require a

that where a testator appears to have a particular intent,
and also a general manifest intent, both of which canstruction.

not by any mode of construction be carried into effect,
the courts will construe the will in such a manner as

nicaps, the particular intent is defeated.

§ 57. A person

§ 57. A person devised lands to A. for his natural life, and, after his decease, he gave the same to the issue of his body lawfully begotten on a second wise, and, for want of such issue, to B. and his heirs for ever; provided that A. might make a jointure of all such premises to such second wise. Lord Hale was of opinion, that this was an estate tail in A.: and, though the three other judges in B. R. were of a contrary opinion, yet upon error brought in the Exchequer Chamber, the judgment was reversed, and Lord Hale's opinion established.

King v. Melling, 1 Vent.
225 232.
2 Lev. 58.
2 P. Wms.
472.

§ 58. John Blownt devised a messuage and farm unto his cousin John Harris, to hold during his natural life; and, from and immediately after the determination of that estate, unto the issue male of the body of his cousin John Harris lawfully to be begotten, and to his and their heirs, share and share alike, if more than one; and for want of such issue, unto the issue female of his cousin John Harris, and to her and their heirs, share and share alike, if more than one; and, for want of fuch iffue, unto his cousin William King, his heirs and assigns for ever. And, taking notice that he had covenanted to fettle 50 l. a year upon his wife, in part performance thereof, he devised houses, &c. at Maidstone to her, to hold for her life, as part of her jointure; and, from and immediately after her death, he gave the same to his cousin John Harris, for and during the term of his natural life; and, from and immediately after the determination of that estate, unto the iffue male of the body of the said John Harris lawfully to be begotten, and to his and their heirs; and, for

King v.
Burchall,
4 Term Rep.
296.
Note (d.)

want of such issue, to his cousin William King and his heirs; with a proviso, that if John Harris or his issue should alienate the premises, he should pay 2000 l. to the person who ought next to take by virtue of the devises aforesaid.

Lord Keeper Henley.—The first question made by the plaintiff's counsel was, Whether Harris took under this will an estate for life only, or an estate tail? And they founded their arguments of its being an estate for life, on the the word "iffue" being technically a word of purchase, and on the superadded words of limitation: and they compared this case to Loddington and Kyme amongst many other cases. The true anfwer is, that there can be no technical words in a will; but they are to be construed according to the intention of the parties. 2dly, This case has no resemblance to Loddington and Kyme: that was expressly upon two contingencies, to A. for life, and if A. have issue, then to such issue in fee; and if he die without issue, then to B. in fee. There the court construed the word " iffue" to be nomen singulare; and were well warranted in so doing by the intent of the party. here, it is and must be plural: and, if the issue were to take as purchasers, they must take as tenants in common: and put the case, that J. Harris had ten fons, and the nine eldest died in his lifetime, leaving children, yet the tenth and only surviving son would carry away the whole inheritance. The testator intended the word "iffue" to be a word of limitation in this case, and that W. King should take on failure of issue by J. Harris, whenever that should happen, and

has

has carried the whole fee in particular estates and romainders for want of fuch issue, i. e. for default of fuch issue. There is something of peculiar force in this expression: and the law supposes that the inheritance already attached in the first taker, but liable to be defeated by a subsequent event, his dying without iffue; and by no rule of law can it admit of that narrow rule of construction put on it by the plaintiff's counsel, viz. of being confined to issue living at 7. Harris's death. They say, that if it be construed to be an estate tail in J. Harris, the supperadded words of limitation to the word "iffue" must be rejected as nugatory. I agree it is a found rule in the construction of deeds and wills, that every word ought to stand, if consistent with the manifest intention. Therefore, in Backhouse and Wells, the limitation being to A. for life Ante C. 54. only, and, after his decease, to his issue, if God should bless him with any, the court, first on account of the negative word "only," secondly, because the word " iffue" was so collected, as to be construed nomen fingulare, held it a word of purchase. So, in Shaw and Weigh, and the word "heir" in Magget and Sewell. But, where there is an evident necessity to make it plural, there the same necessity requires that the superadded words of limitation should be rejected: and there is no case or authority to shew that the word "iffue," or "heirs," when plural, has been construed a word of purchase; but, on the other hand, there are authorities, where the word "heir" in the fingular number has been so; and so may the word " issue," where the context requires it to be taken as a word of purchase. 4thly, The testator, by the prooliy

Infra.

viso in his will, has plainly declared his intention to give J. Herris an estate tail, " if J. Herris, or any of " his issue, should alienate," &c. How could J. Herris alienate or incumber, if he had no estate of inheritance? The case of Wright and Pearson determined by me, T. 31 G. 2. has been attended to by the counsel in this case: and, in my opinion, that was a much stronger case than the present. That was of a trust estate, and there were trustees interposed to preserve, &c.; and I was strongly pressed with the author rity of Bag shaw and Spencer: yet, after the best consideration I was able to give it, and after ransacking all the cases on the subject, I held it an estate tail; and an appeal was afterwards brought in the House of Lords against that decree, but was afterwards deserted by the appellant, on advising with his counsel. That determination, though a decree of my own, will have considerable weight with me; and I find, upon viewing my notes in that case, that the present has been argued upon the very same principles. I am, therefore, of opinion, for the reasons before mentioned, and from the authorities cited, that John Harris took an estate in tail male.

Roe ex dem. Dodson v. Grew, Wilm. 272. 2 Wilf. Rep. 324. § 59. Daniel Dodson devised in these words:—" I give unto my nephew George Grew all, &c., to hold for and during the term of his natural life; and, from and after his decease, to the use of the issue male of his body lawfully begotten, and the heirs male of the body of such issue male: and, for want of such issue male, he gave the aforesaid premises to his nephew, George Dadson, his heirs and assigns for ever." George Grew

had no child at the time of making the will: he entered on the premises, suffered a recovery thereof, and died without issue male. The question was, whether George Grew took an estate tail, or for life only, under the said will?

Lord Chief Justice Wilmot said, that though the testator certainly intended, in the first instance, to give George Grew only an estate for life, yet, if he as certainly intended that all his fons should take in succession one after another, (and they could not take in that manner, but by lodging the estate tail in George Grew), then it came to this case: here were two things intended; one an estate for life to G. Grew, another an estate in succession to all his sons in tail male, ad infinitum. Could they both take place? If they could, they ought: if they could not, then balance the two intentions against one another, and see which was the weightiest and most comprehensive; and give that effect. Courts substitute themselves in the place of a testator; and, suppose the question to have been asked him, you have willed two things, which cannot both be obeyed exactly according to your will, and, therefore, one must yield to the other: what must have been the answer? "I wish to be obliged in the prin-« cipal, capital, and most material destination I have made, and to reject the secondary and subordinate " one." There were three points to be confidered; 1st, If he intended a successive inheritance to all the issue male of G. Grew ad infinitum? 2d, Whether that intention could take place, if G. Grew have only an estate for life? 3d, If it could not, then, which

of the two intentions must govern the construction? That is, if the words "for life" must give place, or the words, expressing an intention of giving a succesfive inheritance to the issue male of G. Grew. As to the first point, the will was clear: the remainder to Dobson was not to take place while any iffue male of G. Grew-existed: a general failure of that line was to open the succession to Dodson; and, therefore, a construction to let him in sooner, would directly encounter the manifest intention of the testator, who was making each of his nephews the distinct root of succession, to particular parts of his estate. It was objected, that the word "iffue" was only descriptive of an individual, and the words, "of the body of such issue male," was in the singular number. Issue, in its natural or ordinary signification, meant "all:" it might be restrained. If first, next, or any other similar words had been used, he might have confined its general meaning; but, as it stood in the will, it comprehended The word "body," in the singular number, was not meant to point out one individual, viz. the first issue, and to exclude all the rest; but to limit the operration of the devise to one at a time, in a course of succession, and to exclude the issue from taking all together, which might have been more doubtful, if the word had been in the plural number, "bodies:" but, without express words, the court would not make an exposition productive of such absurd consequences. If only one son, it must be the first: the existence of a son for a moment determined the limitation: and, if ten more sons had been born after, they could not take, but the remainder limited to G. Dodson was to

fall

fall into possession, in direct opposition to the will, which said, it should take place for want of "such "issue male:"—such; What? Issue male of the body of G. Grew, comprising and embracing every branch arising from him: not one, but all the male line derived from him.

It was also objected, that " iffue" was more properly a word of purchase. It was used in the statute De Donis without an idea of purchase annexed to it, and it acts in a double capacity, as will best answer the intention: and though it was substituted in the place of the word "beirs," which was scratched out, and it was fairly argued he might intend it as a word of purchase, yet it did not carry the argument a jot farther than the words, "for life" did: for, if they took by purchase, they must all take as joint-tenants for life, and tenants in common of the inheritance. Could that be his intention? For if he had ten fons, and nine left issue, the tenth must have the whole estate by survivorship; and when all were dead, then the estate must break into ten parts, and there could be no crossremainders; so that, when there was a failure of iffure of one son, that part must go over to Dodson, when no part was intended to him whilst there was any issue male of the body of G. Grew. He intended all to take, but in a course of succession.

adly, Could this intention take place; if G. Grew, took only an estate for life? It might, by construing the word "issue" to mean first and every other son in succession. Suppose he had said, "I mean by issue,

ee first

" first and every other son," it must have been so expounded; because words were only pictures of ideas upon paper, and, therefore, if he put a meaning on the word himself, it must be understood as he meant But he had not said so; and, therefore, he left the word to act in its own natural character, and, in that case, it would not endure to be expounded "first " and every other son in succession:" for, ex vi termini; it meant all, and had not an eye of successive priority in it; and there was no case, where it was ever construed to mean "first and every other fon in succes-" sion," and to create a series of contingent remainders one after another; which it must do, or the principal intention of the testator be disappointed; and when it is descriptive of the estate, and operates as a word of limitation, and gives an estate tail, it is not the "word," but the "law," which regulates the descent to all the sons successively, upon its own favourite principles of primogeniture. It had been argued that, if we could sollect from the will, that he meant first and every other son in succession, why not construct it so, and thereby complete every part of the intention? Because it would be doing violence to the word " issue," and forcing it out of its known established sense, when the meaning of the testator might be as effectually complied with by giving it one of its natural energies, as a word of limitation: and though the intention, collected from the will, was to govern the construction, yet there must be words used which are fit and proper for that purpose. It would confound the use of all language, and introduce the greatest barbarity and confusion, to make words stand for ideas.

in opposition to the sense which usage had put upon them: and, as a word of limitation, it did not defeat the estate for life; for, without fine or recovery, which was not to be presumed, an estate tail was only an estate for life.

As to whether the words, "heirs male of the body of A." operating as words of purchase, would have the same effect, and take in all the issue male of A. 29 effectually, as if they operated as words of limitation, he admitted, upon the authority of Co. Lit. 26 b. and Vide Tit. 326 the case of Southcote v. Stowell, 1 Mod. 226. 237. and Freeman's Reports 216. 225., that when an estate once vests in an heir male of the body of A. by purchase, that any other heir male of the body of A. may take by descent; and the reason seemed to be, because it is quasi an estate tail from A.; and the will of the donor gave it a descendible quality, after it is once vested, as to all the lineal male descendants from A., as well as to all the lineal male descendants of the first purchaser. But still it would not have the same consequence, as if they acted as words of limitation: for, suppose A. had a son who died in his father's lifetime, leaving daughters, and A. had other sons, they could never take at all, for the second brother could not take because he was not complete heir; whereas, if it was an estate tail, it would descend upon the second son, and take in all the descendants: and it was impossible to make it equivalent to a limitation to the first and every other fon, without violating and confounding the legal operation of words, and producing consequences not warranted by the will: for, upon a limitation to the first and

c. 24. £ 36.

and every other son, the remainders would vest the instant the sons were born; and, when a son was of age, he might by a fine bar all his issue: but, where the limitation was "to the heir male of the body of "A.," no estate vested till A. died; and, if there were no trustees to preserve, &c. A. might bar the remainders at any time after the sons were born, as well as before: and a fine levied by his eldest son would not bar his issue, if he died before the father, because the issue would take by purchase, and not from his father.

3dly, Which intention ought to take place? If the testator had put the issue and remainder-men into the power of G. Grew, it was not to be presumed he would defeat them. If he had given contingent remainders to the issue, and they were to take by purchase, he might defeat the issue before they were born. tail,—a chance; if confined to one issue only, the rest had no chance; better to have a chance of something; the remainder was of no estimation after estate tail, vested or contingent, quâcunque viâ. But suppose the question asked,-" You meant a strict settlement, with " trustees to preserve contingent remainders; but the " words will not warrant the expounding the will in 4 that manner. G. Grew must either take an estate tail, " which will let in all his issue male, but with a power " of defeating them and George Dodson, or an estate " for life, which will let in G. Dodson, in exclusion of "the fons of G. Grew? His answer must have been; "I do not intend G. Dodson any thing, whilst there is " issue male of George Grew."

It was certainly the intention of the testator, that G. Grew's fons should take in succession, which they could not do, if he was only tenant for life. therefore, took an estate tail. The other Judges concurred; and judgment was given accordingly.

§ 60. The Court of Chancery has deviated from the rule in Shelley's case in some cases, where the tes- ated, and a tator has directed a settlement to be made, and the court has been called upon to give directions respecting such settlement, and so far has departed from that, which would be the legal operation of the words limiting the trust, if reduced to a common law convey. ance, as to construe the words "heirs of the body,", although preceded by a limitation for life, as words of purchase, and not of limitation. But this has been done only in cases, wherein it appeared from some clause or circumstance, essentially repugnant to the nature of an estate tail, that the devisor could only intend to give the first devisee an estate for life; and that he used the words, " heirs, of the body," for the purpole of describing the persons, to whom he meant to give the estate, after the death of the first devisee. -

§ 61. The Countess of Sheppey devised her real and Leonard v. personal estate to trustees and their heirs, for payment of debts and legacies; and afterwards to settle the re. 2 Vern. 526. mainder, and what should remain unsold, a moiety to. her son Henry and the heirs of his body by a second wife, and, in default of such issue, to her son Francis and the heirs of his body; the other moiety to her son France cis and the heirs of his body, with remainders over, taking special care in such settlement, that it should never be Vol. VI. Bb in

Suffex,

in the power of either of her said sons, to dock the intails of either of the said moieties given to them as aforesaid, during their or either of their life or lives. The question was, whether Francis and Henry were entitled to have an estate tail conveyed to them, or only an estate for life.

Lord Cowper decreed, that the sons must be made only tenants for life, and should not have an estate tail conveyed to them; but their estate for life should be without impeachment of waste. And, first, because here, an estate was not executed, but only executory; and, therefore, the intent and meaning of the testatrix was to be pursued. She had declared her mind to be; that her sons should not have it in their power to bar their children, which they would have, if an estate tail was to be conveyed to them; and took it to be as strong in the case of an executory devise for the benefit of the issue, as if the like provision had been contained in marriage articles.

Stamford
(Earl of)
v. Hobert,
3 Bro. Parl.
Cr. 31.

\$ 62. Sir John Maynard devised certain estates to trustees, and their heirs; then followed this clause.—

"My will is, that my said trustees and their heirs comme vey the said manors of Cliston and Hardmead to the see use of, or in trust for Sir Henry Hobart and Elizases beth his wife, for their lives, and the life of the songer liver of them; the remainder to the first son of the said Elizabeth, for 99 years, if he shall so song live; the remainder to the heirs male of the body of such first son; the remainder to all and every the sons of the said Elizabeth for 99 years,

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. ziv. § 62.

if every such son respectively shall so long live; the remainder to the heirs male of every of them, to take as not jointly, but successively, the one after the other, according to the births of each of them; the sons to take the term of 99 years with immediate remainders to their said heirs males; the remainder thereof 66 to Mary Maynard," &c. Sir John Hobart, the only son of Sir H. and Lady Hoburt, exhibited his bill against the trustees, praying that they might convey the estates according to the will, which was decreed: and a conveyance was settled by the Master, whereby the estate was mentioned to be conveyed to Thomas Carter and Charles Clayton, and their heirs; habendum to them and their heirs; to the several uses; intents, and purposes in the said will and act of parliament limited, expressed, and declared; and to and for no other use, intent, and purpose whatsoever.

To the Master's report of this draft the plaintiff excepted: for that the premises ought at least to be limited to the use of the said Carter and Clayton and their heirs, and only in trust for such person and persons, and such estate and estates, as were in and by the said will limited, whereby the legal estate might be vested in the said trustees, for the better preservation of the contingent limitations; which otherwise, as the draft was prepared, were liable to be destroyed, and the testator's intention plainly to be deseated.

The matter of this exception came on to be heard before the Lord Chancellor, on the 19th of December 1709; when his Lordship declared, "That in matters

"ters executory, as in case of articles, or a will 'di-"recting a conveyance, where the words of the arti-" cles or will were improper, that court would not " direct a conveyance, according to such improper or " informal expressions in the articles or will, but would order the conveyance or fettlement to be made in a or proper and legal manner, so as might best answer the intention of the parties: and, in this case, his Lordship conceived the true intent and meaning of "the will to be, that the estates should be secured, as " far as the rules of law would admit, to the iffue male " of the respective devisees, before the cross-remainders " should take place; and that it was designed to be as "strict a settlement as possible by law." His Lordship, therefore, decreed, that in the said conveyance, where any part of the estate was limited in use to the plaintiff for 99 years, if he should so long live, there should be a limitation over to trustees and their beirs, during his life, to preserve the contingent uses in remainder; and then to the first and other sons of the plaintiff in tail male successively: and, where any part was limited to the defendant the Countess of Stamford for life, and then to the Earl for 99 years if he should for long live, that there should also be a limitation over to trustees and their heirs, during the lives of the said: Earl and Countels, and the survivor of them, to preferve the contingent uses in remainder; and then to the first and every other son of the Countess of Stainford, and the heirs male of the body of such first and every other son; and then to the right heirs of Sir John Maynard.

From this decree, the defendants, the Earl and Countess of Stamford, appealed to the House of Lords; by whom it was affirmed, and the appeal dismissed.

§ 63. In the case of Papillon v. Voice, the sum of Ante. 10,000 /. was devised to trustees, to be laid out in a purchase of lands, to be settled in the same manner as: land, which the testator devised by the same will; that is to fay, to B. for life, without impeachment of waste, and, from and after the determination of that estate, to trustees and their heirs during the life of B., to preserve contingent remainders; remainder to the heirs of the body of B_{ij} , with remainder over, with a_{ij} power to B. to settle a jointure. And it has been stated that, as to the lands devised, Lord King held: that B. took an estate tail. But, as to the other point, he declared the court had a power over the money,: directed by the will to be invested in land; that the diversity was, where the will passes a legal estate, and where it is only executory, and the party must come to this court in order to have the benefit of the will: that, in the latter case, the intention should take place, and not the rules of law; so that, as to the lands to be purchased, they should not be limited to B. for life, with power, &c. remainder to the heirs of his-body, but to B. for life, with power, &c. remainder to trustees during his life to preserve contingent remainders; remainder to his first and every other son in tail male, remainder over, &c.

money and 6000 l. South Sea annuities, in trust as: Ashton, Collect. Jur. Bb3

soon as conveniently might be after his death to sell the same, and lay out the money in a purchase of lands of inheritance, to be conveyed to George Joseph Ashton for life, and, after his death, to the issue of his body lawfully begotten; and for want of such issue, to Henry Ashton in fee. George Joseph Ashton brought his bill for a performance of this trust; and at the hearing of the cause, one question was, what estate the plaintiff ought to take in the lands to be purchased, whether for life only, or in tail? it being infifted on his part, that, had this been a devise of the lands, he would clearly have been tenant in tail, and the trust ought to receive the same construction. But the court held he ought to be made tenant for life only of the lands to be purchased, and decreed, that they should be conveyed to the plaintiff for life, with remainder to trustees to preserve contingent remainders; with remainder to his first and other sons in tail general; with remainder to his daughters in tail as tenants in common, and not as joint tenants, with cross-remainders between them; remainder in fee to the defendant Robert Ashton.

Glenarchy v.
Bolville,
Forrest. 3.
Collect. Jur.
V. 1. 405.

\$ 65. Sir Thomas Pershall devised all his real estate to trustees, upon trust to convey the same to the use of his Niece Arabella (who afterwards became Lady Glenerchy) for life, without impeachment of waste, voluntary waste in houses excepted, remainder after her death to her husband for life, remainder to the issue of her body, with several remainders over.

This case came on first before Lord King who took time to advise, and to have the opinion of the Judges.

It afterwards came on before Lord Talbet, who, after long argument and deliberate confideration, held, that Lady Glenorchy was entitled only to an estate for life, with remainder to her husband for life, remainder to trustees to preserve contingent remainders, remainder to her first and other sons in tail, remainder to her daughters in tail; and decreed a settlement accordingly.

5 66. Abraham Meure devised all his lands to trus. Meure v. tees and their heirs, in trust to sell the same, and, Meure, Atk. 265. with the money arising by the sale, to purchase other freehold lands or long annuities, or stock, and then in trust to permit the plaintiff and his assigns to receive the interest and profits thereof during his life, and, after his decease, then in trust for the use of the issue of the body of the plaintiff lawfully begotten; and, in default of such issue, the testator devised the principal and interest arising by sale of his said estate to another,

The Master of the Rolls (Sir Joseph Jekyll) said,— The principal question was, whether an estate tail was to be limited to the plaintiff, or an estate for life only? He observed, that the case of Glenorchy v. Boswille was in point, and he should decree accordingly.

§ 67. In the case of Austen v. Taylor, Lord Keeper Agte. faid it had been argued that the devise created an executory trust; but that these words had no certain Amb. 37%. signification. In Papillon v. Voice, Lord King called that an executory trust, where the party was obliged B b 4

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to come to this court, for an execution of the trust But it was the same in every case of a trust; and the determination must be the same in all cases, that is, according to the intent. Papillon v. Voice was a found determination. In the case of marriage, when there were only heads of settlement, which the trustees were to make, the court could not decree otherwise than an estate for life in the first taker, with contingent remainders. An estate tail in the first taker would be no settlement at all. So in Leonard v. Earl of Sussex, the distinction seemed to be, where the testator had di-rected the trusts, and where something was lest and referred to the trustees to be done, as in Lord Glenorchy y. Bosville. He was of opinion, that in the case of imperfect trusts only, the court could make a different construction from a legal limitation. In the present case there was no reference to the trustees; without that ingredient he did not find any case, where the court had given a different meaning from what a court of law would on a legal limitation. Nothing was left to the trustees to be done, but to buy the land; the testator had declared the uses of the land when purchased. His Lordship did not believe the testator intended the trustees should make a conveyance. It was said, if the words in the former limitation had been again repeated, it would have been the very case of Papillon v, Voice; but he thought otherwise. There was a direction in that case to the trustees to convey and settle; but there was no direction here. The true guide was this; where the assistance of trustees, which was ultimately the assistance of this court, was prayed in aid to complete a limitation, in that case the limitation in. the

the will not being complete, it was a sufficient declaration of the testator's intention, that the court should model the limitations; but, where the trusts and limitations were expressly declared, the court had no authority to interfere, and make them different from what they would be at law.*

\$ 68. Thomas White gave all his personal estate to White v. trustees, upon trust to lay out the same in land, to be Amb. 670, settled and affured as counsel should advise, unto and upon the said trustees and their heirs—" Upon trust to and for the use of the plaintiff and the heirs male of his body, to take in succession and priority of birth; and, for default of such issue male, then " upon further trust, and to and for the use of his " niece Ann Robertson." in the same manner. Upon a bill for performance of the trusts, the question was, whether the lands to be purchased should be settled on the plaintiff as tenant in tail, or in strict settlement upon him for life, with remainder to his first and other fons in tail male?—Lord Northington, upon the hearing, directed the settlement to be made on the plaintiff for life, with limitations to his first and other sons in tail male. The cause was re-heard before Lord Camden, who was clearly of opinion to affirm the decree; and took a distinction between the case, where a telnator has given complete directions for settling his estate, with perfect limitations, and where his directions are incomplete, and are rather minutes or instruc-

Mr. Ambler has observed that the above opinion was very. dillatisfactory to the bar in general. tions, المام داد رياً.

tions, and cannot be performed in the words of the In the former case the legal expression shall have the legal effect, though perhaps contrary to his intention; as in Garth v. Baldwin. In the latter case, the court will consider the intention, and direct the conveyance according to it. Here the intention was very plain; he directs the settlement to be made by advice of counsel, and in succession, and priority. He meant something different from an estate tail, when he wanted the assistance of counsel; and though the words, " in " fuccession and priority," might have effect in case the plaintiff took an estate tail, yet they were meant to give an interest to the sons after the death of the plaintiff: the latter clause put it out of doubt; he there explained his meaning, by making use of the words, " fons and iffue."

Where the Estates are of different Natures.

5 69. Where the estate, devised to the ancestor, is merely an equitable or trust estate, and that to his heirs, or the heirs of his body, carries the legal estate, they will not incorporate into an estate of inheritance in the ancestor; as would have been the case, if both had been of one quality, that is, both legal, or both equitable.

Ld. Say and Sele v. Jones, a Bro. Parl. Ca. 113. Via. Ab. 263. \$ 70. Mrs. Ellis devised her estates to trustees and their heirs; upon trust to pay debts, legacies, and annuities, and to pay the residue to the proper hand of her daughter Cecil Fiennes (who was then married) for and during the term of her natural life. And, from and after her decease, the said trustees should stand and be seised of and in all the said manors, &c. to the use and behoof

behoof of the heirs of her said daughter Cecil Fiennes. severally and successively, as they should happen to be in priority of birth and seniority of age, and to the heirs of their several and respective bodies in tail general; and the question was, whether Cecil Fiennes had an estate tail, or only an estate for life.

Lord King was of opinion that, by the words of Tit. 18. 4. 1. the will, the use was executed in the trustees and their heirs, during the life of Cecil Fiennes; and the had only a trust in the surplus of the rents and profits. But by the subsequent words, viz. " that the trustees should stand seifed to the use of the heirs of the body of Cecil Fiennes," &c. the use was executed in the persons intitled to take by virtue thereof; and therefore, there being only a trust estate in the ancestor, and an use executed in the heirs of her body, those different interests could not unite, so as to create an estate tail by operation of law in the ancestor. And, upon an appeal to the House of Lords, the decree was affirmed.

§ 71. Lands were devised to trustees, upon trust Shapland v. that they should every year, after deducting rates, taxes, &c. pay such clear sum as should remain to 75. A. B. during his natural life, and after his decease to the use and behoof of the heirs male of the said A. B. lawfully begotten, as they should be in priority of birth, and in default of such issue remainder over. Lord Thurlow was of opinion that A. B. had only an equitable estate for life; and, the subsequent estate being executed, he had a legal remainder in tail, which

Tit. 12. c. t.

could

could not unite; and therefore the devisee had only an estate for life.

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§ 72. In the case of Silvester v. Wilson, which has been stated in a preceding title, where a person devised lands to trustees and their heirs, upon trust to take and receive the rents, issues, and profits thereof, and to apply the same for the subsistence and maintenance of his fon during his life, and immediately from and after the decease of his son, then the testator gave and devised the said premises unto the heirs of the body of his faid fon. It was held that as the estate devised to the son for his life was merely an equitable one, and the remainder to the heirs of the body of the son was a legal one, the son only took an estate for life.

Case of Perrin w. Blake. Col. Jur. Vol. 1. 283.

§ 73. Thus stood the doctrine respecting the application of the rule in Shelley's case, in the construction of wills; when the case of Perrin v. Blake arose upon a devise made in the following words—" And should my wife be ensient with child at any time hereafter, " and it be a female, I give and bequeath unto her 15 the sum of 20,00% current money of this island, and to be paid her when she attains the age of twenty, one years, or day of marriage, which shall first "happen; and to be generally educated and maintained out of my estate, till her portion becomes " payable, without any deduction of the same or any part thereof. And, if it be a male, I give and bequeath my estate both real and personal, equally to, be divided between the said infant and my son John Williams, when the faid infant shall attain the age

of twenty-one. Tiem, and it is my intent and meaning, that none of my children should sell and "dispose of my estate for longer time than his life! " and to that intent I give, devise, and bequeath, all the "rest and residue of my estate to my son John Williams, and the faid infant, for and during the term of their * natural lives, the Yentsinder to my brother in-laid > # Hant Gale and his heirs; for and during the natural "lives of my faid sons John Williams and the Juid is infant; the remainder to the beirs of the bodies of " my ' said' fons John William's and the faid infant, " lawfully begotten, or to be begotten; the remain-"der to my daughters, for and during the term of their natural lives, equally to be divided between se' them, 'the remainder to my said brother-in-law. "Isac Gale and his heirs, during the natural lives of my faid daughters respectively; the remainder to "the heirs of the bodies of my said daughters, equally to be divided between them." and the comment of new so become five

The testator died, leaving the said John Wiliams, his only son and heir, and three daughters. The testator's wife was not ensient at his death; and Isaac Gale, the devisee in trust in the will, died before the testator.

This case was argued in the Court of King's Bench in Easter Term 9 Geo. 3. and in the Trinity Term following, and in Hilary Term 10 Geo. 3. the Judges delivered their opinions seriatim:

Mr. Justice Willes said there were two questions.

Alt, What appeared to be the intention of the testator?

Adt, Was that agreeable to the rules of law? The investment

tention was apparent from the introductory clause which governed the whole will. The devise to Isaac Gale was a farther proof of the intent; from every part of the will it appeared that Gole was meant as a trustee to preserve contingent remainders. After the devise to Gale he gives it to the heirs of the body of his fon. If he could give an estate for life to one, and the inheritance to the heirs of the body of the first devisee, and if his intention appeared to be so, he should think that that intention must control the legal sense of the words, heirs of the body. The rule contended for which was iti Shelley's case, was pronounced by Lord Coke upon a deed, and in argument; and though he should be for adhering to it in every case literally within it; yet it must not be extended an incha The maxim itself grew with feudal policy, and the reasons of it were antiquated. The logicians say, cessaite causa, cessat effectus, and surely the lawyer may fay—I will confine an old rule within its exact bounds; and extend it as little as possible. Having then stated many of the preceding cases he concluded that the intention of the testator must prevail, which being to give an estate for life only to John Williams, in his opinion he took such an estate only.

Mr. Justice Asson said they were now examining a testator's will, and deciding upon the devises in that will. The sitst and fundamental rule of law in point was, that the intention of the testator was to be collected and allowed though not expressed in any legal language. The intention was clearly to give an estate for life, and where the intention is clear it should gottern. But it was objected, first, that in Shelley's take

Title XXXVIII. Devije. Ch. xiv. 5 73.

it is laid down—That if the ancestor takes for life, and in the same instrument an inheritance be limited to the heirs of his body, the first takes the estate tail. Secondly, That the testator had made such a devise in the very words in this case; that no words of limitation were superadded to the words devising the inheritance. That the devise was of a legal estate, not of a trust, and therefore that the legal sense of the words would supervene the intention, however plainly expressed. As to the first he admitted the rule in Sheller's case to be law, but he denied the consequence; that it was an invariable rule to be applied on every devise. It was an old rule of seudal policy, the reason of which was long since antiquated, and therefore it must not be extended one jot.

The word beirs was a term of art; it was necessary to be tiled in a deed but not in a will. So in the case of estates tail; in a deed they must be created by using words of procreation, as, heirs of the body. proli, semini, issue or children would do in a will; from whence it followed that a testator need not use terms of art. The argument now was, since he had wied them, they must have their due influence. But it was no conclusive argument; when the law permitted an intention to be freely communicated, no reason could be given why terms of art should not be got over. Sir Joseph Jekyll in Papillon v. Voyce said, the intention if lawful shall govern. Lord Talboi observed in Glenorthy v. Bosville,—The rule of law is not so Arici, as to controul the intent: In Sayer v. Masterman Lord Commissioner Willes observed that the intention determined on the non-appearance of intent. Lord Keeper Henley concurred in this opinion, observing that such was not an arbitrary opinion, but consonant to justice and reason; that if the intent appeared, the testator need not be tied down to legal construction. As to superadded words of limitation, upon the words devising the inheritance, whether singular or plural, they were immaterial, the true ground of enquiry being the intention.

The next argument was, that it was not a trust, but a legal devise. He saw no grounds for the distinction between trusts and legal estates, nor did he think it established. It was laid down in several cases, that courts of law must decide upon intent, as well as courts of equity. Courts of equity had frequently upon trusts, decreed estates tail, and this upon a very substantial ground, because the intent of the parties had not been sufficiently explained to contravene the legal operation of the words.

Lastly, the words restraining in the introductory clause signified nothing, the whole clause was explanatory of intention, which was consistent with the devices in the other parts of the will. And to shew this the case of *Leonard* v. The Earl of Sussex, was a respectable authority: there an estate tail was actually devised, and the restrictive clause that the son should not alien, was holden only as explanatory. So in the present case, the clause restraining the power of alienation in the first place, could not, in strict sah-

guage be called a restraint on the tenant in tail; and as it was in a will, it must be expounded only as indicating the intention: and therefore upon the whole of the case he thought that the son John Williams took only an estate for life.

Mr. Justice Fates said, he allowed that upon the construction of a will free scope was to be given to the intention; it was to be collected from various parts, and the whole scheme and design were to indicate the intention: but the intention must be manifestly clear, and likewise fully consistent with every rule of law. There were cases to be met with, even of trusts, where the testator had holden forth strong marks of his intention, and yet because the legal words which he had used bore in legal language a contrary import, the intention gave way to the superior influence of law. After you have fixed the intention, it then becomes a question whether such intention can be executed, consistently with the esta-. blished rules of law, if it cannot we had better adhere to the law, and let a thousand testator's wills be overthrown. In confidering the question it was necessary to fix the point. This was a devise of a real estate to John Williams, &c. here was no trust executory, no future conveyance to be made, every thing depended on the limitations in the will itself. It was an axiom in our law, that wills were to be construed according to the intention. This axiom was used at the bar in the fullest sense, and it was said, that the intention of the testator, if legal, should be carried into execution, and allowed, in whatfoever words he Vol. VI. Cc should

should have explained such intention. But he could not accede to so unbounded a position; he agreed that in the case of an executory trust it was so: and this out of humanity to the ignorance of a testator, because in this case no rule of law would be violated: but in the case of a legal devise he conceived the allowing so much favour would overthrow the established law, and endanger property considerably.

In giving his fentiments upon this question he should should endeavour to maintain two propositions, First, that in every devise of a legal estate the construction should be agreeable to the legal rules of construction.

Secondly, That the rule laid down in Shelley's case was one of them.

If he should prove successful in these propositions it would immediately follow that John Williams was tenant in tail.

The rule of law mentioned by several writers was this: a will shall be construed so as to suffil the intention of the testator, so far as it is consistent with the rules of law. And this was as necessary to the safety and certainty of the rules of property, as not allowing a testator to do that which was illegal; these established rules of construction formed the barriers which kept off uncertainty and vexatious litigations of disputed titles; and this certainty so desirable could no longer exist than whilst the courts adhered to established rules of construction.

The favour then shewn to a will was this; that barbarous words should be supplied; if the devises were imperfect a necessary implication should be allowed; but if the limitations were perfect, there was no occasion for assistance, and the expressions used must have their legal effect. These technical expressions were the measures of property in legal devises; and the law having fixed a determinate meaning to them, will not permit their sense to be perverted, but directs the judges ever to adhere to them without the smallest departure.

Secondly, That the rule in Shelley's case was one of the rules of construction, it had its origin in the seudal policy, and grew up in days when the law savoured descents as much as possible. He admitted that the original reason of it had long since ceased, but he denied that for that reason it must be discountenanced, it having long been the law of the land, and it must continue such till Parliament should interpose. But independent of the seudal law, the rule was reasonable and just, and was applicable to a will, as well as to a deed.

Many arguments were used at the baf to shew that this will was not within the meaning of the rule in Shelley's case; and the words being different required a different rule of construction. The rule did not speak the word heirs abstractedly, it did not mean to insinuate that there was any magic in the word heirs; it only speaks of the two limitations. To one for life, to his heirs the inheritance. The first gives an estate

of freehold, the second gives the inheritance. The freehold was merged in the inheritance, and the ancestor took the whole estate devised.

He then came to the second head of argument, to examine what difference the words made which were used by the testator in the present case.

First the preliminary clause.—It was not difficult to Thew that the restriction in this clause was void; it was tantamount to faying, "My fon shall not convey a greater interest than for life," and he went on to give him an estate which the law calls an estate tail; that restriction was void, for if the same contained a greater estate limited in the one part, than would bear a restriction, the restriction being repugnant was void. In all the cases it was not what estate the ancestor took, but what estate the heirs took. To let them take the inheritance by purchase, they must be particularly defigned, and if this was wanting in the present devise, the inheritance could not rest in the issue of John Williams. That individuals must not controul the general law, otherwise a door would be opened to uncertainty. Upon principle as well as upon authorities John Williams must be' regarded as tenant in tail: his father willed that he should take for life, and that the heirs of his body should all succeed; this could not be done without making him tenant in tail.

Lord Mansfield said, he always thought that as the law had allowed a free communication of intention to a testator,

testator, it would be a strange law to say—" Now you have communicated that intention, so as every body understands what you mean, yet because you have used a certain expression of art, we will cross your intention, and give your will a different construction; though what you meant to have done is persectly legal, and the only reason for contravening you is, because you have not expressed yourself like a lawyer." That his examination of the question always convinced him that the legal intention when clearly explained was to control the legal sense of a term of art, unwarily used by the testator.

It was true the rule in Shelley's case was laid down as stated, but that rule could never affect this question. The real sense and meaning of that rule was this: If the testator gives an estate for life only to A. remainder to the heirs of A.'s body; if the court had faid A. was only tenant for life there would have been a contingent remainder to his issue, and then the issue would have been liable to be barred by any forfeiture of the tenant for life; and if he made an estate pur auter vie, the remainder was gone: so that the best way of complying with the intention was, to give him an estate tail; by which means the issue were protected by the statute De Donis, and if an estate only for life was given, as it could have no use in the world but to cheat the lord of the feudal services, the law very prudently said that in such cases it should be an estate ţail,

This rule was clear law, but was not a general proposition, subject to no controul, as where a testator's intention was manifestly on the other side, and where the objections might be answered. He found no cases in Brooke or Fitzherbert where these matters had come in question, so that the judges were agreed that the intention was to govern, and that Shelley's case did not constitute a decisive uncontroulable rule. This being settled the question was, whether in this case the testator had so explained his intention as to controul the technical expressions, and he agreed with his brothers that he had. It was known that the intention of trustees to support contingent remainders was usually attributed to Bridgeman and Palmer since the restoration; Then knowing that these estates might be limited in strict settlement, it was sufficient for the judges if it appeared that the testator (however he had explained himself) had a strict settlement in his eye, so that from what was said, and from the whole will, he concurred that the intention of the testator was lawful, and fuch as might be supported. If the intent was doubtful, if it was against law, the legal import of the words must govern. But here there could not be a doubt, the heirs of John Williams's body were to take as purchasers successively. That he should not content himself with general arguments, if any case could be found establishing a contrary doctrine, which led him to say he agreed with his brethren, Aston and Willes, that there was no case which contravened this general doctrine.

It was true great reliance was made on Coulson v. Coulson, but this was a very different case. That case might stand, and if ever any future litigation should arise upon a question exactly similar to that, he should submit to Coulson v. Coulson; though, if he was sitting in judgment upon that very will his determination would have been different. It had been said, that case was law, was the unanimous opinion of the court, was a respectable authority, and always was deemed fuch: he could not think so. Denison certainly did not agree with his brothers at first, but as he found them strenuously against him, he was very willing to acquiesce upon the certificate being figned. Lord Hardwicke speaking of Coulson v. Coulson confined it exactly within its own bounds; and further said—" If "that case be law," which was a great deal for him to say; and so little satisfied with it was he, that the last thing he did in Chancery was to send Sayer v. Masterman here, and he told him he did it to have Coulson and Coulson reconsidered. It was said the conveyancers had rested on Coulson v. Coulson.

There was no found distinction between the device of a legal estate, and of a trust, and between an executory trust, and one executed: all trusts were executory, and in every shape that a will appeared, the intention must govern.

He admitted there was a devise to John Williams for life, and in the same will, a devise to the heirs of his body; and he agreed that this was within the letter of Shelley's case, and he did not doubt but there were,

and had been always, lawyers of a different bent of genius, and different course of education, who had chosen to adhere to the strict letter of the law: and they would say that Shelley's case was uncontrovertible authority, and they would make a difference between trusts and legal estates, to the harassing of a suitor.

His opinion therefore was that the intention being clear beyond doubt, to give an estate for life to John Williams, and an inheritance successively to be taken by the heirs of his body; and his intention being consistent with the rules of law, it should be complied with, in contradiction to the legal sense of the words used by the testator, so unguardedly and ignorantly.

Judgement was given that John Williams took an estate for life.

A writ of error was brought on this judgement, in the Exchequer Chamber; in which the judgement was reversed by the opinion of seven judges against one; so that, upon the whole, eight judges were of opinion that John Williams took an estate tail; and sour, that he took only an estate for life.

Harg. Tra. 487.

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§ 74. Sir William Blackstone's argument on this case, in the Exchequer Chamber, has been published by Mr. Hargrave from his own manuscript, of which the following is an abstract.

The great and fundamental maxim, upon which the construction of every devise must depend, is, that

- "that the intention of the testator shall be fully and
- " punctually observed; so far as the same is consistent
- " with the established rule of law, and no farther."

Some rules of law are of an effential, permanent, and substantial kind, and may justly be considered as the indelible land-marks of property; and which cannot be exceeded or transgressed by any intention of the testator, be it never so clear and manifest, such as, that every tenant in see simple or see tail, shall have the power of alienating his estate, by the several modes adapted to their several interests.

There are also other rules of a more arbitrary, technical and artificial kind, which are not so facred as these, being sounded on no great principle of legislation or national policy. Some of these are only rules of interpretation or evidence, to ascertain the intention of the parties, by annexing particular ideas of property to particular modes of expression; so that, where a testator makes use of those technical modes of expression, it is evidence prima facie, that he means to express the self-same thing, which the law expresses by the self-same form of words. Thus, a devise of land to another, generally, gives him an estate for life: a devise to a man and his heirs give him an estate in see; to a man and the heirs of his body an estate.

Lastly, there are some rules which are not to be reckoned among the great fundamental principles of juridical policy, but are mere maxims of positive law, deduced

deduced by legal reasoning from some or other of the great fundamental principles, such as, that a devise to a man for life, with remainder to the heirs of his body, shall constitute an estate-tail.

The rule in Shelley's case is not to be reckoned among the great fundamental principles of juridical policy, which cannot be exceeded or transgressed by any intention of the testator; but is of a more slexible nature, and admits of many exceptions: for, if the intention of the testator be clearly and manifestly contrary to the legal import of the words, which he has thus hastily and unadvisedly made use of, the technical rule of law shall give way to this plain intention of the testator.

The rule of law, laid down in Shelley's case, is, that where the ancestor takes an estate of freehold, with remainder to his heirs, or heirs of his body, the word beirs" is a word of limitation of the estate, and not of purchase; that is, in other words, that such remainder yests in the ancestor himself; and the heir, when he takes, shall take by descent from him, and not as a purchaser. It was first established to prevent the inheritance from being in abeyance, and to facilitate the alienation of land,

This rule, when applied to devises, may give way to the plain and manisest intent of the devisor; provided that intent be consistent with the great and immediate principles of legal policy; and provided it be so fully expressed in the testator's will, or else may be collected

collected from thence by such cogent and demonstrative arguments, as leave no doubt in any reasonable mind, whether it was his intent or no.

There is no such plain and manifest intent of the devisor in the present case, expressed, or to be collected from any part of this devise, as may controul the legal operation of the words, and, at the same time, be consistent with the fundamental rules of law.

The question is not, whether the testator intended that his son John should have a power of alienation: for he most clearly expressed, that the son should not have fuch a power. The question is not, whether the testator intended that his son should have only an estate for life; for he believed there never was an instance, when an estate for life was expressly devised to the first taker, that the devisor intended he should have any more. But if he afterwards gives an estate to the heirs of the tenant for life, or to the heirs of his body, it is the consequence or operation of law, that in this case supervenes his intention, and vests a remainder in the ancestor. And, therefore, it has frequently been adjudged, that, though an estate be devised to a man for his life, or for his life et non aliter, or with any other restrictive expressions, yet if there be afterwards added apt and proper words to create an estate of inheritance in his heirs, or the heirs of his body, the extensive force of the latter words should overbalance the strictness of the former, and make him tenant in tail, or in fee. The true question of intent would turn, not upon the quantity of estate intended to be given to 70bn

1 Vent. 225.

John the ancestor, but upon the nature of the estate intended to be given to the heirs of his body. That the ancestor was intended to take an estate for life, was certain; that his heirs were intended to take after him, was equally certain: but, how those heirs were intended to take, whether as descendants or as purchasers, was the question? If the testator intended they should take as purchasers, then John the ancestor only remained tenant for life: if he meant they should take by descent, or had formed no intention about the matter, then, by operation and consequence of law, the inheritance first vested in the ancestor. The true question, therefore, was, whether the testator had, or had not, plainly declared his intent, that the heirs of the body of John Williams should take an estate by purchase, entirely detached from, and unconnected with, the estate of their ancestor? Or, in other words, whether he meant to put an express negative on the general rule of law, which vests in the person of the ancestor (when tenant of the freehold) an estate, that is given to the heirs of his body? It was not incumbent on the plaintiff to shew by any express evidence, that his testator meant to adhere to the rule of law: for that was always supposed, till the contrary was clearly proved. Dut it was incumbent on the defendant to shew, by plain and manifest indications, that the testator intended to deviate from the general rule: for that was never supposed till made out, not by conjecture, but by strong and conclusive evidence. devise to a man's heirs, or heirs of his body, the heirs had never been allowed to take as purchasers, excepting in one of these four cases. 1st, Where no estate

at all, or no estate of freehold, was devised to the anceftor, there the heirs could not take by descent, because the ancestor never had in him any descendible estate. 2d, Where no estate of inheritance was devised to the heir, as in the case of White v. Collins; for Ante. common sense would tell, that in such a case, the heir could not take by descent, as heir. 3d, Where some Ante. words of explanation were annexed by the devisor himself to the word heirs in a will, whereby he discovered a consciousness, distrust, or apprehension, that he might have used the word improperly, and not in its legal meaning, and, therefore, he in a manner retracts it, he corrects the inaccuracy of his own phrase, and tells every reader of his will how he would have it understood. 4th, Where the testator superadded fresh limitations, and grafted other words of inheritance upon the heirs to whom he gave the estate; whereby it appeared, that those heirs were meant by the testator to be the root of a new inheritance, the stock of a new descent, and were not considered merely as branches derived from their own progenitor. The evidence of intent, in this case, might be resolved into two particulars: 1st, The testator's previous declared intention, that none of his children should sell or dispose of his estate for longer term than his own life. 2d, The interposed estate to Isaac Gale and his heirs, on which much stress could not be laid; for, if that estate had been expressly given to preserve contingent remainders, (which was only a conjecture), the case of Colson v. Colson was an express authority, that this would not make the heir of the body a purchaser. If this was so, the introductory words were the only evidence of intent,

intent, and then the result of the whole matter was, that the testator having declared his intent that his son should not alien his lands, he, to that intent, gave his fon an estate to which the law has annexed a power of alienation: an estate to himself for life, with remainder to the heirs of his body. Now, what was a court of justice to conclude from hence? Not that a tenant in tail thus circumstanced should be barred of the power of alienation; this was contrary to fundamental principles. Not that the devisee should take a different estate from what the legal signification of the words imported; this, without other explanatory words, was contrary to all rules of construction: but plainly and simply this, that the testator had mistaken the law, and imagined that a tenant for life, with first an interposed estate, and then a remainder to the heirs of his body, could not sell or dispose of his interest. Upon the whole, he concluded, that though it did appear that the testator intended to restrain his son from disposing of his estate, for any longer term than his life, and, to that intent, contrived the present devise, yet it did not appear by any evidence at all, much less by declaration plain, that, in order to effectuate that purpose, he meant that the heirs of the body of his son should take by purchase, and not by descent, or even that he knew the difference. The consequence was, that, by the legal operation of the words, which were not controlled by any manifest intent to the contrary, the heir could only take by descent, and, of course, John Williams the son was tenant in tail.

§ 75. It is observable that, in the several cases in Conclusion. which the question has arisen, whether the rule in Shelley's case should be applied or not, to the construction of a will, the objection to the application of the rule has always been founded on the obvious intention of the testator, to give the first devisee no more than an estate for life; without confidering, that in all those cases, the testator devises the remainder, expectant on the determination of the first estate, to the heirs general, or special, or issue, of the first devisee; and that it is as necessary to ascertain his intention in the second, as in the first devise. There can be no doubt but that where a common person devises his estate to A. for life, with a remainder to his heirs general, or special, or issue, he does not mean to give him any greater estate than for his life. And as to the addition of negative words, or a devise to trustees to support contingent remainders, they can add nothing to the clearness of the first words. The whole difficulty therefore lies in ascertaining the intention of the testator in the second devise; and where it is inconfistent with the first devise, to adopt such a construction as will best effectuate his intention in both the It is for this purpose that the rule is applied, upon a principle which has been already stated, and Robinson v. which is fully explained by Lord Ch. Just. Wilmot in C. 12. s. 47. the case of Roe ex dem. Dodson v. Grew; namely, that Ante. where a testator shews a particular, and also a general intent, which are inconsistent with each other, the general intent will be established, and the particular one difregarded. In all the cases where the rule has been applied, there was a devise to A. for life, with a **fublequent**

Hicks, ante

fubsequent devise to the heirs general or special, or

issue of A. and the testator had a particular intent, to give an estate for life only to A. and a general intent, to give estates to all the descendants of A. If the will were construed according to the particular intent, the first devisee would take an estate for life only, and the words heirs, or heirs of the body, or issue, must operate as words of purchase: But by this mode of construction the general intent, that all the descendants of A. should take successive estates of inheritance, either in fee, or in tail, would be defeated; for if the remainder was devised to the heirs of A, it must vest in the person who was heir general to A. at the time of his death; and in that case it could not go in succession from him to succeeding heirs of the same ancestor, not being heirs general of the first heir, but might eventually go to strangers, either in defect or exclusion of the heirs of such ancestor. If the remainder was devised to the heirs of the body of A. it would vest in the person who was heir of the body of A. at the time of the testator's death, and would descend to the heirs of the body of that heir; and on failure of issue of that person, it would go, by a quasi descent, to the next person who answered that description, at the time of the failure of fuch issue, in conformity to Mandeville's case: so that if the devisee had several sons, the first would take an estate tail, but none of the other sons would take vested estates, while the eldest or any issue of his body were in existence. If the remainder was devised to the issue of A. the estate would vest in all his children, as jointtenants for life, and tenants in common of the inhe-

ritance.

Fearne Con. Rem. 301.

Vide Tit. 32. c. 24. s. 36.

1 Inst. 26 b.

Roe v. Grew,

ritance. The consequence is, that in order to effectuate the general intent of the testator, which evidently is, that the estate devised shall go to all the descendants of the first devisee, and shall not go over as long as there are any such descendants remaining; the court is obliged to apply the rule, and to construe the second devise in such a manner as to create an estate in see, or in tail, in the first devisee.

§ 76. This doctrine is fully confirmed by Lord Thurlow, in his determination of the case of Jones vi Morgan; in which his Lordship concluded his judge. Antes ment in these words:—"By all the cases, where the " estate is so given that, after the limitation to the first taker, it is to go to every person who can claim " as heir to the first taker; the word beirs must be words of limitation: all heirs, taking as heirs, " must take by descent. In cases where I can bring " it to the point, that the testator by the word heirs, se as used in the will, means first, second, third, and other fons, there I change the words of the will; but here I think the word "heirs" was the very thing he meant. Suppose William had had a son, which fon had had a fon, and died, leaving Sir William, the eldest son of the son would have been "heir. If there had been a title he would have " taken it; but the estate, if these had been words of " purchase, must have gone to the second son; the devise to the first son being a lapsed devise, like the case of Warren v. White, lately in the House of Ante ch. & 44 Lords from Ireland. But Sir William Morgan meant the estate to go to whoever should be heir. Vol. VI. " I think Dd

" I think the argument immaterial, that he meant the "first estate to be an estate for life. I take it, that in " all cases the testator does mean so: I rest it upon "what he meant afterwards. If he meant that every " other person, who should be heir, should take, he " then meant what the law would not suffer him to. " give, or the heir to take, as a purchaser. In con-" versing with a great authority whom I will not " name, I asked what would become, in the case " stated, of the grandson: the answer was, he should " take as heir. I know he might, but then he must "take by descent: all possible heirs must take as " heirs, and not as purchasers. Many cases have " been determined on the ground of a devise to the " first taker, with remainder to the heir male in the " singular, or heirs male in the plural, as in King v. Burchell (before Lord Henley), where it was in the "fingular number. The rule in Shelley's case was "used as a demonstration, that it was indifferent, " whether the limitation was in the fingular or in the " plural number: it was equally an estate tail. So, where it is to the heir of the first taker, and to the " heirs of that heir, it has been determined to be an estate tail. Indeed, in all cases, where the limita-"tion is of an estate of freehold to a man, and after-" wards to the heirs of his body (whether general or " special), so as to give it to the heirs as a denomina-"tion or class, the heirs shall be in by purchase, and not by descent. And the case, stated by Anderson in Shelley's case, of a limitation to the use of A. " for life, remainder to the use of his heirs, and of "their heirs female, is the only one to the contrary;

" and

Ante.

1 Rep 95 3.

- "and in that case the word "heirs" must be a description of persons, in order to let in the limita-
- tions to the heirs female."

§ 77. Mr. Fearne's conclusion to his observations Cont. Rem. on the rule, appears to have been founded on this principle, or if not, is certainly conformable to it: for he says:-" Wherever the ancestor takes the free-" hold, the inheritance will not go to all the heirs, & &c. in the course of inheritable succession, unless by an actual descent. And consequently if, after the first taker, it is to go to every person, who can claim as heir to him, the intended fuccession can only be effectuated by taking the word heirs, &c. as words of limitation. If after him, all heirs, &r. are to take as fuch, that is, as answering that de-" scription, they can only take by descent. If the 's law will not admit of all possible heirs, &c. " taking the inheritance, after its inception by a free-"hold in the ancestor, otherwise than by descent, it follows, that wherever the limitation to the heirs, &c., after a freehold to the ancestor, is admitted so to reach the whole denomination or class of heirs described, they must take by descent, and not by of purchase." *

The student is referred to Mr. Hargrave's very able and learned "Observations concerning the Rule in Shelley's Case," published in his Tracts, pa. 551. Mr. Butler's note to 1 Inst. 376 b. and Mr. Presson's succinct View of the Rule in Shelley's Case.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. XV.

Construction.—What Words create a Joint-Tenancy or Tenancy in Common, and Cross-Remainders.

- § 1. What Words create a Joint- | § 29. Not to be implied between Tenancy.
 - 9. What Words create a Tenancy in Common.
- 25. What Words create Cross-Remainders.
- more than Two.
 - 36. But this Doctrine has been altered.

Section 1.

What Words create a Joint-Tenancy. Auon. Cro. Eliz. 431.

[X/ITH respect to the words which create a jointtenancy in a will, a devise to A. and B. generally, or to A. and B. and their heirs, makes them So, where a man devised lands to his joint-tenants. two daughters and their heirs, it was resolved, that they took an estate in joint-tenancy.

Oates v. Jackson, Stra. 1172.

§ 2. A person devised in these words,—" As to "Welf Park, I give it to my wife for her life, and, " after her death, to my daughter Isabella, and her children, on her body begotten by W. A. her husband, and their heirs for ever." Isabella, at the time of making the will, had one daughter, and afterwards two sons and one daughter, who were dead without issue. The question was, what estate passed to Isabella and her children, and it was held, that she took as joint-tenant, it being stated, that at the time of making the will, she had a child, which had been I Inft. 9 a. construed to be equal to children.

§ 3 Lands were devised to A. B. and C. in tail, and then followed these words: "I will that every of "them be the other's heir by equal portions." The court, at first, held this to be a tenancy in common: but, afterwards, upon good confideration, it was adjudged to be a joint-tenancy, for so it was implied; and it was as much as to fay, that each furvivor should be the other's heir.

Fowler v. Ongley, And 194. Webfler's Case, 3 Leon. 19. inira.

§ 4. Where lands are devised to two or more per- Furse v. fons, to hold to them and the furvivor of them, they will take an estate in joint-tenancy, though there are other words in the will indicating a tenancy in common,

Weiks,2Roll. Ab. 89.

§ 5. Thus, Lord Hale says, that a devise to two, 1 Vent. 216. equally to be divided between them, and to the furvivor of them, makes an estate in joint-tenancy; upon the express import of the last words.

§ 6. A person devised to Jane the wife of B. and to Elizabeth the wife of C. all his estate, &c. to be equally divided between them during their natural lives, and, after the deceases of the said Jane and Elizabeth, to the right heirs of Jane for ever. the only question was, whether this devise made Jane

Tuckerman v. Jeffries, 3 Bac. Ab. 681. Holt's Rep. 370.

Dd3

and

and Elizabeth joint-tenants for life, so as, upon the death of Jane, the whole survived to Elizabeth for life; or whether, upon the words equally to be divided between them, they were tenants in common?

Lord Chief Justice Holt pronounced the opinion of the court, that they were joint-tenants, notwithstanding the words, " equally to be divided among them," and the lands ought to furvive to Elizabeth: 1st, For though upon such words, generally they would be tenants in common, yet if it should be so in this case, it would be expressly against the intent of the testator, and would defeat the heirs of Jane of part; for they were to take all together, and not by moieties, one at one time, and one at another, but all at once; and if they should be tenants in common, they must take by moieties at several times. 2dly, It was express, that the heirs of Jane were not to take till after both their. deceases. 3dly, If they should be tenants in common, then the heirs of Jane would be in danger to lose a moiety: for, as to that one moiety, it must be a contingent remainder; so that, if Elizabeth should die during the life of Jane, the contingency for that moiety not happening, it must descend to the heirs at law of the testator, who were Elizabeth and the issue of Jane, as coparceners. 4thly, Jane and Elizabeth were heirs at law to the testator, and, as such, the whole would have descended to them in coparcenary, if no will had been made; but here, by this will, it was plain, the testator intended to prefer the heirs of Jane to the whole.

Adjudged accordingly.

§ 7. A. Hawes devised all his estate in D. to his four younger children, A., B., C., and D., their heirs and assigns for ever, equally to be divided between them, share and share alike, as tenants in common, and not as joint-tenants, with benefit of survivorship. The question was, whether the four children took as tenants in common generally, or as tenants in common, with some sort of benefit of survivorship.

Hawes v. Hawes, 1 Will, R. 165.

Lord Hardwicke said, that, in Chancery, joint-tenancies were not favoured; because they were a kind of estate that did not make provision for posterity: neither did courts of law at this day favour them, though Lord Coke fays, that joint-tenancy is favoured, because the law was against the division of tenures; but, as tenures were abolished, that reason had ceased, and courts of law inclined the same way with courts of equity. Another rule was, that where there were contradictory words in a will, the court made a reasonable and uniform construction, and would reject such words as were absurd, and contradictory to the intent of the testator. The words, "equally to be divided," in a will, made a tenancy in common: here was also added, "as tenants in common, and not as joint-te-" nants," which were very strong words; but then, it was also said, "with benefit of survivorship," which last words created the difficulty in the case; that is, to know at what time the testator intended this benefit of furvivorship should take place. And this might be explained by another part of the will, where he plainly pointed out a survivorship among the children themselves, as to his personal estate, where the words were;

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xv. 5 7-9.

" unmarried, then I direct that the share of him so dying, shall go to the survivors." Then he came to this devise of his real estate, to his said sour younger children; but it was true, he did not say, with like benefit of survivorship. He thought it was natural to consider this as a fund or provision for these sour children; and that he meant, if any of them should die before 21, or unmarried, that the share of the child so dying should go among the other children: and he was of opinion that, G. dying under age, his share did survive to the others, and should not go to the heir at law.

Chap.9.1 22.

1 Inft. 112 b.
n. 1.
3 Atk. 373.
3 Atk. 493.

§ 8. It has been stated in a preceding chapter, that, where there are two different dispositions of the same estate in a will, the two devisees shall take in moieties; and Mr. Hargrave says, that in some of the old books, it is said generally, that there shall be a joint tenancy; but, according to the modern opinion, and, it seems, the best, there will be a joint tenancy, or tenancy in common, according to the words used in limiting the two estates; by which, it is meant, that, if the two estates given by the will have the unity or sameness of interest, essential to a joint-tenancy, the devisees shall be joint-tenants; but, otherwise, shall be tenants in common.

What Words mestera Temount § 9. Wherever an estate is devised to two or more persons, and there are any words in the will indicating an intention, that the devisees shall take several and distinct shares, they will be tenants in common.

§ 10. A man

§ 10. A man devised his lands to his wife for life, the remainder to A., B., and C., and their heirs respectively, for ever. The question was, whether A., B., and C., were joint-tenants, or tenants in common? The court held, that here was a tenancy in common, and that it should go throughout, and was not to be divided: and the intent of the devisor appeared in the will, that every one should have his part, and their heirs; so here was a provision made for children, and the word, "respectively," would be idle, if another construction should be made, and would signify no more than what the law faid without it.

Torret v. Frampton, Stiles, 434.

§ 11. Lands were devised to five persons, their James v. heirs and assigns, all of them to have part and part alike, and the one to have as much as the other. Adjudged to be a tenancy in common.

Collins. Het. 29. Cro. Car. 75

§ 12. One Lewen devised lands to his two sons equally, and their heirs. It was adjudged, that the devisees took as tenants in common; for, otherwise, the word "equally" would have no meaning.

Lewen v. Cox, Cro. Eliz. 695. 1 Vern. 32.

§ 13. A person devised a messuage, with the ap- Denn v. purtenances, unto M. G. and T. R. equally to them, his sister's sons. Lord Mansfield said, there was no room for argument; "equally" implied a division: whereas, if they were to take as joint-tenants, there would be no division,

Vide Tit. 32. c. 24. f. 51.

§ 14. The words, "equally to be divided," have always been held to create a tenancy in common in a will, 13

will, because they imply a division: whereas, between joint-tenants, there is no division, unless there are other words in the will; as, in some of the preceding cases, giving a right of survivorship.

King v. Rumbal, Cro. Ja. 448. 3 Rep. 39. 3 Mod 209. § 15. A man devised to his wife for life, and, after her decease, to his three daughters, equally to be divided; and if any of them died before the other, then the survivors to be her heirs, equally to be divided; and if they all died without issue, then to others, &c. It was held, that the daughters were not joint-tenants, but that they had several inheritances in tail, with cross-remainders.

Bliffett v. Cranwell, Salk. 226.

§ 16. A man devised lands to his two sons and their heirs, and the longer liver of them, equally to be divided between them and their heirs, after the death of his wife. The court was of opinion, that the fons were tenants in common, and that the devise was good; and the reason was upon the construction of wills, that it ought to be according to the intent of the devisor; his intent appearing to be, not only to provide for his two sons, but for their posterity; that not only his two fons, but their heirs, should have an equal part: for the words were, " equally to be divided " between them and their heirs." And though, by the first words, it was given to them and the survivor of them, yet the last words explained what he intended by the word "furvivor;" that the survivor should have an equal division with the heirs of him who should die first. And, though the testator had not aptly expressed himself, yet, upon all the words taken together his meaning feemed to be so.

§ 17. A person

§ 17. A person devised two leasehold houses to J.P. Prince v. and J. H. and then said, My will and meaning is, that the rents of my two said houses shall be equally shared and divided between them the faid J. P. and J. H. as aforesaid. It was held, that the devisees took as tenants in common.

Halglin,

§ 18. A person devised a freehold estate to trustees Sheppard v. and their heirs, in trust to permit his three sisters and their affigns to hold and enjoy the said premises, and to receive the rents thereof to their sole and separate use; and as his faid fifters should severally die, he gave the premises to their several heirs. Lord Hardwicke held, that the plain meaning of the words, "as they seve-" rally die," &c. was, that the sisters should take as tenants in common,

Gibbons, 2 Atk. 441.

§ 19. A testator devised all his real estates to trustees, as foon as his three daughters should attain their respective ages of 21, to convey to them and the heirs of their bodies, and their heirs, as joint-tenants Lord Hardwicke, after observing that, on account of the direction to convey, this was an executory trust, in which case, the court assumed greater latitude of moulding the will according to the intention of the testator, gave his opinion, that the daughters did not take as joint-tenants, but that conveyances should be made to them at 21 respectively in tail, with cross-remainders in tail; by which means, survivorship would be preferved upon the death of any daughter without issue, which was the most that was meant by joint-tenants.

Maryat v. Townley, 1 VeL 102.

\$ 20. A devise

Stones v. Heurtly,
1 Vel. 165.

§ 20. A devise of lands to trustees for payment of debts, the remainder to go and be equally divided among his three younger children and the survivor of them, and their heirs for ever, was held by Lord Hardwicks to create a tenancy in common.

Rose v. Hill, 3 Burr. 1881.

§ 21. A person devised lands to his five children, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the executors and administrators of such survivor, share and share alike, as tenants in common, and not as jointtenants. It was contended, that this was a tenancy in commen amongst the five children for life, with furvivorship to the longer liver of them. Lord Mansfield said, that an estate to more than one, with a benesit of survivorships, was a joint-tenancy. But, here, the testator had expressly declared, that they should not take as joint-tenants. It was plain, that the children were not to take as joint-tenants, and also, that the testator considered, that several of his five children might happen to die in his own lifetime, and therefore made a provision for such of them as should survive him, and be in existence at the time when the interest was to vest, and their representatives. He meant to prevent a lapse; and, therefore, the court might rather apply the words to a fixed particular time, than give no meaning at all to them. And this was agreeable to the case of Stringer v. Phillips. Judgment that the children took as tenants in common.

3 Ab. Eq.

Garland v. Thomas, 1 Bof. & Pul. N. R. 82. § 22. Robert Clarke devised his estate to trustees and their heirs, to the use of the testator's niece Susana nab Clarke, and his two nieces Elizabeth Garland and

Ann

Ann Corry, and the survivor and survivors of them, and the heirs of the body of such survivor and survivors, as tenants in common, and not as joint-tenants, and for want of fuch issue remainder over.

Upon a case sent by the Master of the Rolls for the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas, the Judges of that court certified, that the devisees took as tenants in common.

§ 23. It has been stated, that two persons may have an estate in joint-tenancy for their lives, and be tenants in common of the inheritance. These estates may be created by will as well as by deed.

Tit. 18. c. 1.

§ 24. A person devised an estate to be sold for the payment of debts and legacies, and directed, that the furplus of the money should be laid out in the purchase of lands, to be settled to the use of the testator's Barker v. two nephews, and the survivor of them, and their heirs, equally to be divided between them, share and share alike. The question was, whether these words created a joint-tenancy, or a tenancy in common?

Barker v. Giles, 2 P. Wms. 280. 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 104. Smith, 9 Mod. 157.

Lord King said, it was a certain rule, in the exposition of wills especially, that every word should have its effect, and not be rejected, if any construction could possibly be put upon it; and here he thought there The first part of the devise being to two, and the survivor of them, made them plainly joint-tenants for life, and, therefore, they should be so taken. then, as to the next words, "and to their heirs " equally

"equally to be divided between them, share and share alike," these were plainly words importing a tenancy in common, and should operate accordingly, so as to make them tenants in common of the inheritance; by which construction of the will, every word would take place.

A decree was made accordingly, which was affirmed by the House of Lords.

What Words create Cross Remainders. § 25. With respect to the words by which cross remainders are expressly created in a will, they are of course the same as those which are used for that purpose in a deed. But cross remainders may arise in a will by implication of law, where it appears to have been the intention of the testator, that there should be cross remainders.

Clache's Case, Dyer 303. 330. \$ 26. A. having issue five sons, his wife being ensient with the sixth, devised two-thirds of his lands to his four younger sons; and the child in ventre matrix, if it was a son, and their heirs; and if they all died without issue male of their bodies, or any of them, that the lands should revert to the right heirs of the devisor. It was adjudged that the younger sons were tenants in tail, with cross remainders to each of them. For it was clearly the intention of the testator that no part of the estate devised should revert to the heirs of the devisor, as long as any issue remained of any of his younger sons.

§ 27. A man having two sons devised part of his Chadock v. lands to one of them and his heirs, and the remaining Cro. Ja. 695. part to the other and his heirs: and added this item, I will that the furvivor of them shall be heir to the other, if either of them die without issue. Adjudged that they were tenants in common in tail, with cross remainders.

Cowley,

§ 28. A testator devised in these words--" I give Holmes v. all my lands in M. to my two daughters Elizabeth " and Ann, and their heirs, equally to be divided between them; and in case they happen to die without " issue, then I give and devise all the said lands to my " nephew." It was adjudged that the two daughters took estates tail with cross remainders.

Meynell, T. Raym. 2 Show. 135.

§ 29. It was however laid down by the judges in Not to be imthe reign of Cha. I. that cross remainders should not be implied between more than two persons. And Mr. Serjeant Williams observes that this doctrine was established for two reasons; one was to prevent as well the confusion which it was faid would follow from the division of an estate among many, as the uncertainty which would arise whether the surviving shares should vest in them as joint-tenants, or tenants in common, and for what estate. The other, which was a technical reason, was to avoid the splitting of tenures.

plied between more than two.

1 Saund. Rep. 185 a. n. 6.

§ 30. A person having three sons, and being seised of three houses, devised a house to each son, and his heirs; with a proviso that if all his said children should die without issue of their bodies begotten, that then

Gilbert v. Cro. Ja. 655. all his faid messuages should remain over, and be to his wife and her heirs. It was adjudged that these words did not create cross remainders between the sons, but that on the death of any one of them without issue, his house should go over to his mother. And Doderidge said that although in a devise to two persons there might be cross remainders by implication, yet that in a devise to three, cross remainders should never be implied, on account of the uncertainty and inconvenience.

Cole v. Levingston, 1 Vent. 224. § 31. In a subsequent case Lord Hale said, that cross remainders should not be created between three persons, unless the words of the will plainly proved the intent of the testator to have been so. As if Blackacre were devised to A. Whitacre to B. and Greenacre to C. and if they all die without issue of their bodies, vel alterius ecrum, then cross remainders would be allowed.

Comber v. Hill, Stra. 969. § 32. Richard Holden devised lands to his grandson Richard Holden, and grand-daughter Ann Holden, equally to be divided, and to the heirs of their respective bodies; and for default of such issue, to another person. It was determined that there were no cross remainders between Richard and Ann Holden, because there were no express words, nor any necessary implication to raise them; for the mere words, "and "for default of such issue," being relative to what went before, only meant, and for default of heirs of their respective bodies; and then it was no more than if it had been a devise of a moiety to Richard and the heirs

heirs of his body, and of the other moiety to Elizabeth and the heirs of her body, and for default of heirs of Williams v. their respective bodies, remainder over; in which case there could be no doubt.

Brown, Stra. 996. S. P.

§ 33. In the case of Doe v. Cooper which has been Ch. 12. stated in a former chapter, Mr. Justice Lawrence observed that the principal part of the plaintiff's argument was founded upon the raising of cross remainders by implication between the issue of Richard Cook: but it was a settled rule that they should not be implied between more than two, unless such appeared upon the face of the will to have been the intention of the testator: but no such intent appeared in that case from the words of the will, nor could it be implied merely from the circumstance that the remainder over was not to take effect, but upon the dying of Richard Cook without leaving issue.

§ 34. John Owen being seised in see of two mes- Davenport v. suages, devised them to his wife for her life, and after her decease to his son and daughter John and Margaret to be equally divided between them, and the several and respective issues of their bodies, and for want of such issue to his wife in fee. Lord Hardwicke was of opinion that this will was not so penned as to create cross remainders, which not being favoured by the law could only be raised by an implication absolutely necessary; and that was not the case here, for the words several and respective effectually disjoined the title.

Atk. 579.

Perry v. White, Cowp. 777. \$35. A person devised to his four sisters and a niece for their lives, share and share alike, as tenants in common, and not as joint-tenants, remainder to their sons successively in tail male, remainder to their daughters in tail, the reversion to his own right heirs.

Lord Mansfield said, that wherever cross remainders were to be raised by implication between two, and no more, the presumption was in favour of cross remainders, where they were to be raised between more than two, there the presumption was against cross remainders; but that presumption might be answered by sircumstances of plain and manifest intention either way. This was a qualification of the rule laid down in former cases; for they seemed to say that there should not be cross remainders between more than two; but the true rule was to take it with the qualification above stated. Here the presumption was against cross remainders, and judgement was given that there were no cross remainders.

But this Doctrine has been altered. 1 Saund. R. 18; a. s. 6. § 36. Mr. Serjeant Williams observes that the rule of cross remainders has of late years been construed with some qualification, and the learning of courts of justice seems to have been in favour of them; for the settled distinction now is, as laid down by Lord Mansfield in the preceding case.

Doe v. Burville, cited 2 Eaft. R. 47

§ 37. A person after devising to his sons in succession for life, with remainder to the heirs male of their

their bodies, remainder to the heirs female of their bodies, devised to the use of all and every his daughter and daughters as tenants in common, and not as jointtenants, and to the heirs of her and their body and bodies issuing, with remainder to the heirs of his brother Abraham for ever. Lord Mansfield said the question was, whether the intent was so plain as that it could not be effectuated without giving cross remainders; and the court thought that it was plain and unavoidable to give cross remainders. The testator had three fons to each of whom he gave several estates in tail. His plan was to follow the course of descent, by preferring even the female line of each of his sons (in failure of the male) before his other sons and their male line, and before his own daughters. 'He thought the coming to his daughters a remote contingency, he therefore made use of the words daughter and-daughters; all and every; if two or more; supposing that the number might be reduced before they might become entitled. He took for granted that a remainder to his brother Abraham, who was alive when he made the will, could not take place till failure of his own issue; therefore he limited the remainder to the heirs of his brother Abraham, supposing it not likely to happen in his time. He also limited the remainder in the fingular number; conceiving it could not take effect till the death of the last daughter without iffue. "We think these words are equivalent to an express " declaration that there shall be cross remainders. " all the limitations the female line of each son must " fail, before the male line of the other sons shall " take, and all must fail before the daughters could Ee 2

"take: Then it would be absurd to suppose that he meant to devise over the shares of any of his own daughters dying, from the rest, when he had not done so by his sons daughters; or that he should have given to the heirs of his brother, the share of one of his own daughters dying, while any of them was left: for if Abraham had no children, then the daughters would be his heirs. Therefore we think he has given all his daughters the estate, with cross remainders as fully as if he had given them in the most express words."

Wright v. Holford, Cowp. 31.

§ 38. A devise was in these words—" To the use of all and every the daughter and daughters of the " body of P. H. and to the heirs of her and their " body and bodies lawfully issuing, such daughters if "more than one to take as tenants in common and " not as joint-tenants; and for default of such issue to the right heirs of the devisor for ever." There were two daughters and one of them having died an infant, the question was whether her fister became entitled to her moiety. On a case being sent out of the Court of Chancery for the opinion of the Judges of the King's Bench the certificate was—" There are " no words in the instrument which intimate any "intention to limit over the respective shares of the "two daughters dying without heirs of their bodies " respectively: on the contrary the limitation over is " of the whole estate, limited to all the daughters, " and is to take place on the express contingency of " failure of all and every the daughter and daughters, " and the heirs of their body and bodies; and the " limitation

- " limitation over on default of such issue is, to the
- " heir at law. Consequently we are of opinion, that
- " as nothing is given to the heir at law, whilst any
- " of the daughters or their issue continue, they must
- " amongst themselves take cross-remainders."

§ 39. George Phipard devised an estate to his bro. Phipard v. thers William and John, and his fister Elizabeth, and Cowp. 797. the heirs of their bodies, as tenants in common, and not as joint-tenants; and, for want of such issue, to his own right heirs for ever. Upon a case sent out of Chancery for the opinion of the Judges of the King's Bench, whether there were cross-remainders created by the will, Lord Mansfield said, that the reason given in the old cases against raising cross-remainders, to prevent the splitting of freeholds, had not very great weight at the time it was given, and certainly had none now. To be fure, where they were to be raifed between two, and no more, the favourable presumption was in support of cross-remainders; where between more than two, the presumption was against them; but the intention of the testator might defeat the presumption in either case. In Davenport v. Oldis, where Ante. the question was, whether cross-remainders should be raised between two only, Lord Hardwicke, by way of general observation, laid it down, that the words, in default of such issue, should not merely in themselves create cross-remainders. But, fince that time, in the case of Wright v. Holford, the court went expressly on Ante. the distinction of there being no words, such as, respectively, to sever the titles; but that the limitation over being, in default of all the issues, the rule of con-

Brustion laid down as between two should obtain. The case of Wright v. Holford, therefore, upon full confideration, fays, that these words shall lay such a soundation, as to create cross-remainders: and, in general, he believed, in devises of this kind, the intention of the testator was in favour of cross-remainders. But these must be some circumstances manifesting such intention. In the present case, the testator had two brothers and a sister; if he meant his estate should have gone to his heir at law, there was no occasion to make a will, therefore, it was clear he did not mean his brother John should take it as heir, or that William should So so. But he meant that his fifter should be equally an object of his bounty. It was clear, that he meant no division should take place to create an inequality between them till a failure of the heirs of all their bodies. He, therefore, began with the disposition thus 2 45 As to all my temporal estate, I give my lands to my two brothers and my fifter, and to the heirs " of their bodies lawfully begotten." These were the words of an ignorant man, and the will was inaccurately drawn; for there could not be a limitation to two Brothers and a fifter, and to the heirs of their three bodies. The Court, therefore, must mould them as hear to the intent of the testator as they could. The lands, he said, were equally to be enjoyed by his brothers and fifter, and the heirs of their bodies. It was impossible to have expressed his intention that his lister should take equally with his brothers more plainly. He meant his estate should continue settered with an intail as long as the existence of the persons then in being, and their issue; and that his heir at law should take

take nothing till after that intail was determined: whereas, if the construction were to be, that the heir at law should take upon the failure of issue of any one, the elder or the younger brother, as the case might happen, would then take a fee in the share of the deceased brother or sister, and so create an inequality, which the testator never intended to make. For it was limited to them, and the heirs of their bodies, and for want of fuch iffue; want of iffue there, plainly meant issue of all of them. How could it then be executed, but by raising cross-remainders? It seemed to be as strong a case as that of Wright v. Holford. The other Judges concurred, and the Court certified that there were cross-remainders.

§ 40. A person devised to all and every the daugh. Atherton v. ter and daughters of the body of his daughter Martha, Rep. 710. and the heirs male of the body of such daughter or daughters equally between them, if more than one, as tenants in common, and not as joint-tenants; and for and in default of such issue, he gave and devised all his said premises unto his right heirs for ever. Upon a case sent out of Chancery for the opinion of the Judges of the King's Bench, Lord Kenyon faid, that, as between two only, it should be presumed that crossremainders were intended to be raifed; but if there were more than two, it was necessary to resort to other words in the will to discover an intention to raise crossrémainders: but, here, there was no doubt from the words of the limitation over, but that the devisor intended to raise cross-remainders between the granddaughters. The testator clearly intended that the whole should E c 4

should go together, whereas, if no cross-remainders were raised between the granddaughters, it would go to the right heirs by separate portions on the death of each grand-daughter.

Ante.

Mr. Justice Buller said, this was a stronger case for raising cross-remainders than that of Phipard v. Mansfield; for here, besides the words, for default of such issue, namely, issue of all of them, the devise over is of all the devisor's estates. Now, they could not all go together, but by making cross-remainders between the grand-daughters.

The Court certified, that the daughters of Martha took estates in tail-male with cross-remainders.

§ 41. It is observable, that the words, several and respective, were relied upon in the cases of Comber v. Hill, and Davenport v. Oldis, to shew that the limitation over was to take place upon failure of either of the daughters, and their issue respectively. But, in the following case, cross-remainders were raised by implication, notwithstanding the use of the word respective.

Wation v. Foxon, 2 East. R. 36.

§ 42. A person devised an estate to all and every the younger children of Mary Foxon, begotten or to be begotten, if more than one equally to be divided among them, and to the heirs of their respective body and bodies, to hold as tenants in common, and not as joint-tenants. And, if the said Mary Foxon shall have only one child, then to such only child, and to the heirs of

his or her body lawfully issuing; and, for want of such issue, he gave and devised the said premises to C. N. The question was, whether cross-remainders were raised between the younger children of Mary Foxon.

Lord Kenyon said, that where cross-remainders were to be raised by implication between two, and no more, the presumption was in favour of cross-remainders: where they were to be raised between more than two, the presumption was against them; but that presumption might be answered by circumstances of plain and manisest intention, either way. Whatever was.declaratory of the intention of the party, he took to be expressed. No technical words were necessary to convey an intention; but if, taking the whole instrument together, there was no doubt of the party's meaning; the court arrived at the conclusion. Now, here the testator set out with devising all his farm, &c. to his daughter and grand-daughter for their lives, remainder after the death of the survivor to all and every the younger children of Mary Foxon; if more than one, equally to be divided amongst them, and the heirs of their respective body and bodies as tenants in common; and, if only one child, then to such only child, and the heirs of his or her body, &c; and for want of fuch issue, he gave and devised the said premises to his son-in-law C. N. (What he meant by the said premises was evident, and could not have been rendered clearer by saying, all the said premises, though it might have served to multiply words). Then after several limitations, and for want of such issue, he proceeds to divide the estate into thirds, to go to different persons:

Comber v. Hill, Davenport v. Oldis, Ante.

till then, the entirety of the estate was to be preserved, and all was to go over at the same time. But great stress was laid here upon the word respective, as difjoining the title; and the authority of Lord Hardwicke was referred to in the cases mentioned. No person regarded whatever fell from that great Judge with more reverence than he did; but it was unworthy of his great learning and ability, to lay such stress, as he was stated to have done, on the word "respective." Creating a tenancy in common divided the title as much, whether the word "respective" was used or not. And, as to what might have been said by other judges, with reference to the opinion delivered in Comber v. Hill, and Davenport v. Oldis, in subsequent cases, where the word " respective" did not occur; feeling themselves right on the principle on which they proceeded, it was not to be wondered at, that they were desirous of relieving their own minds from the weight of Lord Hardwicke's opinion, that there was a distinction between the cases, in the omission of that word on which he so much relied: but it was too much, to infer from thence that those Judges, therefore, approved of his opinion, or that their judgments were governed solely by that consideration. In the case of Atherton v. Pye, the devise over, in default of such issue, was of all the testator's said lands: and stress was laid by some of the Judges on the word all, in support of raising cross-remainders between the issue, he would not fay by implication, but by what the Judges collected to be the intention of the testator. But the word "all" was not decisive of that case, and, in truth, made no difference in the sense; for a devise 14 :

Ante.

devise over of the said premises, or the premises, or all the said premises, meant exactly the same thing. Admitting, therefore, the general rule, that the prefumption was not in favour of raising cross-remainders by implication between more than two, still that was upon the fupposition, that nothing appeared to the contrary, from the apparent intention of the testator. He had no doubt here, but that the testator intended to give cross-remainders among the issue of M. F. The devise over of the premises meant all the premises: he intended that all the estate should go over at the same time. He thought Lord Mansfield's quarrel with Davenport v. Oldis well founded: and he agreed with the cases of Wright v. Holford, and Phipard v. Mans. Ante. field; and he could not distinguish this case from those. He was clearly of opinion, that the intention of the testator was the polar star, by which the court should be guided in the construction of wills, where no law was infringed; and, here, the intention was clear to give erose remainders. The other Judges concurred; and judgment was given accordingly.

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TITLE XXXVIIL

DEVISE.

CHAP. XVI.

Construction.—What Words create a Condition, and make Lands liable to Debts, and enable Persons to sell Lands.

- § 1. What IV ords create a Condition.
 - 4. What Words make Lands Trable to Debts.
- 13. What Words enable Persons to sell Lands.

Section 1.

What Words create a Condition.

X) ITH respect to the words that are necessary to make a devise conditional, it is laid down by 1 Inst. 236 b. Lord Coke, that many words in a will make a condition in law, that make no condition in a deed. As a devise of lands to an executor ad vendendum; so if lands be devised to one ad folvendum, 201. to J. S. or paying 201. to J. N. this amounts to a condition.

Crickmer's Cafe, 1 Inft. 236 b.

§ 2. A man seised of certain lands held in socage, having issue two daughters, A. and B. devised all his lands to A, and her heirs, to pay unto B, a certain fum of money, at a certain day and place. The money was not paid; and it was adjudged that the words, "to pay, &c." did amount in a will to a condition: and the reason was, for that the land was devised

devised to A. for that purpose, otherwise B. to whom the money was appointed to be paid would be without remedy; and the lessee of B. upon an ejectment recovered a moiety of the lands against A.

§ 3. A person devised his estate to his second son in Curteis v. fee, upon condition to pay to his four daughters 201. each at their full age. This was held to be a condition; for it should be expounded according to the common law, where it was not necessary to expound it to the contrary. But where a devise was to an eldest fon upon such a condition, if it should be expounded to be a condition it would be void and to no purpose, for it would descend upon the eldest son, and no remedy could be had against him.

Wolverston, Cro. Ja. 56.

- Wellock v. Hammond, Cro.Eliz.204. Vide Tit. 16. c. 2. f. 30.
- § 4. By the common law, real estates are not sub- What Words ject to the payment of debts due on simple contract, liable to unless made so by will, which is considered by many as a great defect, because credit is in fact given to the possessions of landed estates, in proportion to the value of such estates. He therefore who neglects to charge his lands with the payment of his debts, sins, as it has been emphatically faid, in his grave: and if he omits this circumstance on purpose to deseat the demands of his creditors, he dies with a deliberate fraud in his heart.

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§ 5. These principles have given rise to a rule both at law and in equity, that whenever a testator expresses an intention that all his debts shall be paid; or devises all his property subject to the payment of his debts;

these words shall operate so as to render his real estates subject to his debts.

Bowdler v. Smith, Prec. in Cha. \$64. s 6. A person devised in these words—as to my temporal estate wherewith God hath blessed me, I give and dispose thereof as solloweth. First, I will that all my debts be justly paid, which I shall at my death owe, or stand indebted in, to any person or persons whatsoever. Also I devise all my estate in G. to A. B. and this was all the estate the testator had. Held that this will created a charge on the real estate for payment of debts.

Trott v. Vernon, Prec. in Chs. 430. S 7. A man being seised of a real estate, and also possessed of some personal estate, made his will inwriting, and thereby devised in these words—Imprimis, I will and devise that all my debts, legacies, and surreals, shall be paid and satisfied in the first place. It was held that this clause amounted to a charge on his real estate for the payment of debts and legacies.

Beachcroft v. Beachcroft, 8 Vern. 690.

\$ 8. A will began with these words—" As to all my worldly estate, my debts being sirst satisfied, I devise the same as follows, &c." The court held it clear in this case that no land, nor any part of the testator's worldly estate was devised, till after his debts paid; consequently that the land was charged, and that it would have been sufficient, though the word, first, had been omitted.

Harris v. Ingledew, 3 P. Wms. 91. § 9. A person made his will to this effect; "As to all my worldly estate, my debts being first satisfied, "I devise

"I devise the same as follows, &c." The Master of the Rolls was of opinion that no land, nor any part of the testator's worldly estate, was devised, till after his debts were paid; consequently that the land was charged.

§ 10. A will began in these words—" As to my. Legh v. Earl "worldly estate which it hath pleased God to bestow. " upon me, I give and dispose thereof in manner " following (that is to fay) Imprimis, I will that all my debts which I shall owe at the time of my " decease be discharged and paid." It was decreed by Lord King that these words made the lands of the devisor liable to his debts; and this decree was affirmed in the House of Lords.

of Warrington, 1 Bro. Park Ca. 511.

Godolphia v. Penneck, 2 Vel. 271. Hatton v. Nichol, Forrest 110.

§ 11. John Ivy in the beginning of his will recited Thomas v. that he had made a former will in the life of his wife, in which he had given to her all his real and personal estate; that he had the misfortune to lose her, and therefore he made his will for the disposition of the same. First, he ordered all his debts and funeral charges to be honourably paid after his decease. In a subsequent clause he devised particular premises, enumerating them, excepting H. and R. all which enumerated lands, except H. and R. he devised to trustees, by and out of the money arising by sale, and out of the rents and profits thereof, in the mean time, in the first place to pay and discharge his debts, funeral expences, and all legacies given by his will, or by other writing under his hand. He afterwards went on and faid, that H. and R. should be in the first place for payment

Brittnell, 2 Vel. 313. payment of the legacies mentioned in his will. On a bill by the creditors to have the real estate by the will subjected to payment of their debts, in aid of the personal, so far as that proved deficient, insisting that the whole real estate was by the will established as a fund for payment of debts. And whether the whole, or any and what part, of his real estate was subject to debts was the question.

Sir 7. Strange M. R. said the word same must relate to the real and personal estate before given; and if it stood on that, and the word first, only, he should have no doubt but that his whole real estate would be subject to the payment of debts; not from any express mention made that they should be a charge on his real estate, but from that construction the court makes for the benefit of creditors, and that men should not sin in their graves. Here was no express declaration on the outset of the will that the testator's whole real estate should be charged with payment of his debts, therefore it was necessary to look farther into his will, and see what was the intent of the testator, who was not bound in fact, though bound in honor, to make fuch a disposition for his creditors. Considering the whole he had subjected the greatest, but not every part of his real estate to the payment of debts, having excepted a particular part, and applied it to another purpose, not intending that H. and R. should be liable to be swallowed up by creditors, to the prevention of the legatees under his will. But afterwards directed what should be done with H. and R. He had personal estate which he could not exempt from payment

of his debts; he had real, the whole of which he might subject; in declaring his intent as to that he exempted H. and R. entirely, referving them as a fund for legacies only. On the clauses therefore altogether (and which were only clauses by which he expressly charged his land therewith) he considered how far his real estate should be chargeable to creditors, and then thought himself at liberty to apply the other part to satisfy legatees. Therefore, though on the first part the court might take the whole real to be charged with debts, yet as there was no express lien on the real by these general words, and afterwards he distributed Juch part of his real for debts, and fuch for legacies, it was too much to lay hold on the general words to fay the whole should be charged with payment of It could only be done by implication on the general words, which might be explained afterwards, and that implication destroyed. Consequently the plaintiffs could only have a decree for an account of the personal estate, and then the other parts of the real estate, except H. and R. for payment of their debts.

§ 12. Francis Nichols, by his will, charged all his Ellison v. personal estate with debts and legacies; and so much 2 Vel. 568. as the personal estate should fall short to answer and pay, he charged all his messuages, lands, and grounds in Durham, with payment thereof, in aid of the perfonal estate, and directed the personal to be sold. By a subsequent clause he gave a particular farm to be sold for payment of his debts and legacies, and by another clause devised all his real estate, so charged and Vol. VI. Ff chargeable

chargeable to trustees, to receive and take the first two years profits that should arise and become payable out of his estate in *Durham*, for payment of his debts and legacies, if the personal estate proved deficient. It was insisted that only that particular part, and the two years profits were charged; the generality of the first charge being controuled and restrained thereto expressly.

Lord Hardwicke—" Upon all the rules of charging for payment of debts, the whole trust estate is sub-· ject to payment of debts and legacies: the charge " of the personal estate therewith was unnecessary. "Afterwards, there is a full and complete charge on " the real of so much as the personal proved not suf-"ficient to satisfy. It must be something very strong in the will to restrain that charge to a particular " part, to go no further. If it rested on the clause "which gives the farm, would the express direction " of the will, to fell a particular estate toward pay" " ment of those debts and legacies, that the personal estate was not sufficient for, afford a negative im-" plication, that no more should be fold? Certainly on not; for there are several cases, where there is a " charge for payment of debts, and afterwards a "direction that a particular part should be sold, that " has been taken only to be a declaration that that se shall be first applied. Then the subsequent part is on more than what is done by the former clause, " taking out a particular part; as one was of the inheritance, the other the profits. If indeed negative words were added, it cannot go farther; but I take " those "those negative words, "and no more," to be applied

to the maintenance. There are several cases of a

" general charge by words not near so strong as this,

and a devise afterward of a particular estate for that

of purpose, yet that was not sufficient to restrain it.

That was the case of Lord Warrington v. Booth,

"this general charge then. subsists; and I cannot

" make any other construction.

Vide Foster v. Cook, 3 Bro. Rep. 350.

§ 13. Littleton says, that where a person had a What Words power by the custom of devising his lands, he might direct that his executors should alien them for a certain fum, to distribute for the good of his soul; and that in cases of this kind, although the lands descended to the heir of the testator, yet the executors might put him out and fell them. From this arose a custom for testators to direct that their executors should sell their lands for payment of their debts, or to devise the lands to their executors for that purpose. In the latter case the lands vest in the executors, but in the former they have only a bare authority.

enable Persons to fell Lands. S. 169.

§ 14. It has been doubted whether a power of sale 1 Inst. 1134. given to executors be capable of survivorship or trans-But Mr. Hargrave observes that this question is now of little consequence; for such a power though extinct at law, would certainly be enforced in equity, which rightly deeming the purpose, for which the testator directs the money arising from the sale to be applied, to be the substantial part of the devise; and the persons named to execute the power of selling, to be mere trustees, the case falls within the general rule

- of equity, that a trust shall never fail of execution for want of a trustee; and that if one is wanting, the court will execute the office.
- Fit. 3. s. § 15. It has been stated that where a man devises his lands to his executors, for payment of his debts, and until his debts are paid, although the determination of such an estate be uncertain, yet it is a chattel interest, transmissible to their executors,
 - § 16. Any words from which it can be inferred to have been the intention of the testator that his lands should be sold for the payment of his debts, will operate as a power of sale.

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§ 17. A person having furrendered his copyhold lands to the use of his will, devised in these words—" My debts and legacies being first deducted, I devise all my estate real and personal to J. S."

Adjudged by Lord Nottingham that these words amounted to a devise to sell for the payment of debts.

Cateman v. Pateman, 1 Atk. 421. he had surrendered a copyhold to the use of his will, directed that the said copyhold should remain, one third to his wife for life, and the other two thirds to his son, paying to his two daughters 1501. a piece at twenty-one. But by a latter clause in the will, said, provided that if my personal estate, and my house and lands at W. should not pay my debts, then my exe-

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cutors to raise the same out of my said copyhold premiles..

Lord Hardwicke said, the question was whether the latter devise would entitle the executors to fell the copyhold estates; and he was of opinion it would, for as the rents were not near enough to discharge the testator's debts, these words would give the trustees a power to sell, to satisfy the testator's intention of paying his debts. It was therefore decreed that the copyhold estate should be sold.

§ 19. George Lancaster being seised in fee of some Lancaster v. lands, and possessed of others for a term, made his will, 2 Burr. 10276 and after giving certain legacies proceeded thus-I do hereby charge and make chargeable all and every my lands and inheritance, and leasehold, with the payment of my debts, funeral expences, and legacies; and for more speedily railing money for payment of them, I devise to G. E. and D. Lancaster (who were his two fons and his daughter) their heirs, executors, and administrators, the leasehold estate (describing it) for all the residue of the term upon trust to sell the fame and to apply the money to the payment of his debts, &c. But in case the money arising from the Tale of the leasehold estate shall not be sufficient to pay and discharge all his debts, legacies, &r. then he devised-" That his said two sons and daughter should and might absolutely sell, mortgage, or otherwise "dispose of his freehold estate for the payment of " such of his said debts, &c. as his said leasehold " estate should not be sufficient to discharge."

The leasehold estate was not sufficient to pay the testator's debts, legacies, and suneral expences.

The Lord Keeper directed the following question to be referred to the Court of King's Bench for their opinion, "Whether by virtue of these words, viz. in "case the money arising from the sale of the leasehold "estate shall not be sufficient to pay and discharge all "the testator's debts, legacies, and suneral expences, that then he devises that his two sons and his daughter shall and may absolutely sell, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of his freehold estate, for the payment of such of his said debts, legacies, and funeral expences as his said leasehold estate should not be sufficient to pay and discharge; any estate passed to E. G. and D. his two sons and daughter, "or only a power to sell."

Lord Mansfield—" Here are no words, by which the estate is devised to the executors. Therefore, if it be construed that there is a devise to them, it must be raised by implication. But, by the frame of the will, it is plain that the testator did not so intend: for he shews, by the expression he has used, that he knew the distinction between the devise of an estate to them, and giving them only a power to sell. As to the term "devise," the expression "I will," or "my mind is."

The intention of the testator, Mr. Ashburst says, cannot be complied with, in this case, without an implication

implication of a devise to the executors; because it must otherwise descend to the heir at law in the mean time; who, he fays, would not be chargeable " with the intermediate rents and profits, but alto-" gether unaccountable for them. That clearly is " not fo. The land could only descend to the heir, " subject to the charges; and would be liable in his " hands to the payment of debts, legacies, and fune-" ral expences; so that the testator's intention is " equally answered one way as the other."

The certificate was as follows—" Having heard " counsel on both sides, and considered this case, we " are of opinion, that no estate passed to the said " Edmund, George, and Dorothy Lancaster; but only " a power to sell, demise, mortgage, or otherwise 3 Ves. Jun.

" dispose of the premises."

Vide Lingard v. Derby, 1 Bro. R. 311, Warneford v. Thompson, 513.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. XVII.

Executory Dévises.—Devise over after a Devise in Fee Simple.

- § 1. Origin of Executory Devises.
 - 2. Devise over after a Devise in Fee.
 - 9. Though the First Estate be not vested.
- 11. No Devise is deemed Executory which can be supported as a Remainder.
- 13. An Executory Devise cannot be barred.

- 16. Within what Time on Executory Devise must vest.
- 22. A Devise after a general Failure of Heirs or Issue, is void.
- 23. The Words, dying without leaving any Issue, restrained to the Death of the Person.
- 26. Curtefy attaches on the First Estate.

Section 1.

Origin of Executory Devifes.
Tilbury v. Barbut,
3 Atk. 617.

Thas been stated, that, by the rules of the common law, no remainder could be limited over after an estate in see-simple, nor a freehold be created to commence in futuro. But the indulgence shewn to testators in essectuating their intentions, however untechnically expressed, induced the judges to dispense with those rules, in cases of wills, as well as in the limitation of uses; and also to allow of certain dispositions of terms for years in wills, which in deeds, deriving their essect from the common law, would be deemed void.

§ 2. Dispositions

§ 2. Dispositions of this nature are usually called Executory Devises, and are of three forts. The first is, where the devisor disposes of the whole see, but, upon some future contingency, qualifies that disposition, and devises the estate over to some other person.

after a Devise in Fee.

§ 3. A testator devised to his mother for life, and, after her death, to his brother in fee; provided that if his wife, who was then enfient, was delivered of a fon, then the land should remain to him in fee, and died. A fon was born: and it was held, that the fee of the brother should cease, and vest in the son by way of executory devise.

23 Eliz. Dyer 127 a. in mar.

§ 4. A man devised to A. and his heirs, provided Hoev. that, if he died within age, then the land should remain to B. and his heirs. Adjudged good: for, when 136. the devisee only takes a limited estate, a contingent see might depend upon it, but that was not by way of remainder, but executory devise. And this doctrine was finally established in the following case.

Gerils,

§ 5. William Brown devised lands to Thomas Brown, Pells v. his fecond fon, and his heirs for ever; and, if Thomas died without issue, living William his brother, that then William his brother should have those lands, to him and his heirs and assigns for ever. All the Judges agreed that this was a good limitation of the fee to William upon that contingency; not by way of immediate remainder, for they all agreed it could not be by remainder. As, if one devise land to A. and his heirs, and if he died without heir, that it should remain to

13

Brown, Cro.

another,

another, it was void and repugnant to the estate; for one see could not be in remainder after another: for the law doth not expect the determination of a see by his dying without issue, and, therefore, cannot appoint a remainder to begin upon determination thereof. But by way of contingency, or of executory devise to another, to determine the one estate, and limit it to another, upon an act to be performed, or in failure of performance thereof, &c. for the one might be, and had always been allowed.

Hanbury v. Cockerill, 1 Roll. Ab. 835. § 6. A. having two sons, B. and C., by several venters, and being seised of Blackacre and Whiteacre, devised Blackacre in see to B. and Whiteacre to C. in see, with a proviso, that if it should please God either of his said sons to die before such time as they should be married, or before they should attain to their age of 21 years, and without issue of their bodies to be begotten, then he gave all the said lands which he had given by his will unto such of his sons as should so decease before his marriage, or before their age of 21, and without issue of their bodies, unto the survivor of his sons. The devise over, in this case, was held good as an executory devise.

Heath v. Heath, 1 Bro. R. 147. § 7. Edward Heath devised to his son, William Heath, all his estate, till Edward Heath should attain his age of 22 years, and no longer. He afterwards said,—" Item, I give and bequeath to Edward Heath all my messuages in H. and C. for ever; that is, is he have a son or sons who shall attain 21. But, if my kinsman Edward Heath should chance to die without

son or sons to inherit, my will is, that the son of my son William Heath shall inherit." It was determined by Lord Thurlow, that Edward Heath took an estate in fee, subject to an executory devise over, in the event of his dying without issue, or of his issue dying under the age of 21 years.

§ 8. A person devised a copyhold estate to his daugh. Doe v. Wetter, Susannah Saunders, and her heirs and assigns for ever: but if his said daughter should happen to die, leaving no child or children, or lawful issue of her body, living at the time of her death, then he gave, devised, and bequeathed all the said copyhold premises to T. B. and his heirs. Lord Eldon, and the other Judges of the Court of Common Pleas held, that the whole fee being given to Susannah Saunders, her heirs and assigns, no further remainders over could be limited upon that fee; and, therefore, the estate given to T. B. was a new fee limited upon a contingency, that is, an executory devise.

ton, 2 Bos. & Pull. 324.

§ 9. Where there is a devise over, after a devise in Though the fee-simple, though such an antecedent devise in fee be not vested, but contingent, yet, if the ulterior devise is limited so as to take effect in defeazance of the estate first devised, on an event subsequent to its becoming vested, it will be deemed an executory devise.

First Estate be not velted.

§ 10. A person devised lands to his wife for life, and, after her death, to such child as she was then supposed to be ensient with, and to the heirs of such child for ever; provided, that if such child as should

Gulliver v. Wicket, 1 Wilf R. 105.

happen

happen to be born, should die before the age of 2 i years, leaving no issue of its body, the reversion should go to another.

Lord Chief Justice Lee delivered the opinion of the Court, that the true construction of the will was, that there was a good devise to the wife for life, with a contingent remainder to the child in fee, and a devise over, which was good as an executory devise; and, if the contingency of a child never happened, then the last devise was to take effect, upon the death of the wife.

No Devise is deemed Executory, which can be supported as a Remainder.

- § 11. An executory devise being a disposition contrary to the rules established for the construction of conveyances at common law, whenever a future interest in land is so devised, as to fall within the rules laid down for the limitation of contingent remainders, such devise will be construed to be a contingent remainder, and not an executory devise.
- § 12. Thus, where there is a devise over, after a preceding devise to a person and his heirs, if there are any words in the will, by which the first devise can be restrained to mean heirs of the body only, the first estate will be construed to be an estate tail, and the devise over a remainder.

An executory Devise cannot be barred. § 13. The essential difference between a contingent temainder and an executory devise, is, that the first may be barred, or prevented from taking essect, by several means. But an executory devise cannot be prevented from taking effect, either by fine or recovery, or by any alteration whatever in the estate, after which it is limited.

- § 14. In the case of Pells v. Brown, Thomas Brown Ante f. 5. entered and suffered a recovery; but all the Judges (except Doderige) held, that the recovery did not bar the executory devise; for the person who suffered the recovery, had a fee, and William Brown had but a pofsibility, if he survived Thomas: and, Thomas dying without issue in his life, no recovery in value should extend thereto, unless he had been party by way of vouchee.
- § 15. A person granted several annuities by deed to Mullinix's his younger children, and, afterwards, devised all his Palm. 136. lands to his elder fon and his heirs, upon condition that he paid the annuities; and if he failed of payment, that the younger son should enter and have them. The elder fon entered, and made a feoffment, and then the younger son entered for non-payment: and it was held that his entry was lawful, the contingent estate not being develted by the feoffment.

Case, cited

§ 16. In consequence of the rule, that an executory devise cannot be barred, or prevented from taking effect, by any mode whatever, it became necessary to prescribe certain bounds and limits to executory devises; lest they should be used as a means of creating And, therefore, it was established by analogy to the case of strict entails, that an executory Vide Tit. 32. devise must vest within the compass of a life or lives 12.

Within what Time an executory Devise must vest.

c. 26. f. 11,

in being, and 21 years and nine months after; and the courts have uniformly supported executory devises, that are restrained within these limits.

Ante f. 5.

§ 17. Thus, in the ease of *Pells* v. *Brown*, the event on which the estate was devised over, namely, the death of *Thomas* without issue in the lifetime of *William*, being confined to the life of *William*, was held good.

Fairfax v. Heron, Prec. in Cha. 67. § 18. A person devised all his lands, after the death of his executor, to A and his heirs for ever; but if he died leaving no son, then to that son or sons of his executor, which he should think sit to nominate. It was decreed, that this was a good executory devise; because the contingency was confined to the period of a life in being.

Taylor v.
Biddail,
2 Mod. 289.

§ 19. Richard Ben having a fifter formerly married to one Smith, by whom she had issue Augusta Smith, and afterwards married to one Wharton, by whom she had issue a son called Benjamin, and a daughter called Mary, devised his estate to his sister Elizabeth, for so long time, and until her son Benjamin Wharton should attain his full age of 21 years, and, after he attained that age, then to the said Benjamin and his heirs for ever; and, if he died before his age of 21 years, then to the heirs of the body of Robert Wharton, and to their heirs for ever, as they should attain their age of 21 years. Richard the testator died; Benjamin died before he attained the age of 21, living Robert his sather; and, afterwards, Robert died.

It was determined, that the executory devise to the heirs of the body of Robert Wharton was good. Now, the heirs of the body of Robert Wharton could not take until after their father's death, for nemo est hæres viventis: and fince that heir of the body of Robert, who should attain 21, might not have been born before his father's death, and the estate could not vest in him until he attained 21, it follows, that the estate might possibly not have vested under that limitation, until 21 years after the determination of a life then in being.

§ 20. Sir William Stephens devised freehold estates Stephens v. to his grandson William Stephens, his heirs and assigns Stephens, Forr. 228. for ever; but, in case his said grandson William Stephens should die before he attained his age of 21 years, then he gave the same unto his grandson Thomas Stephens, his heirs and assigns for ever: but, in case his grandson Thomas Stephens should depart this life before he attained his age of 21 years, then he devised the faid lands to fuch other fon of the body of his daughter Mary Stephens, as should happen to attain the age of 21 years, his heirs and assigns for ever, the elder of fuch fons to take before the younger, &c. and to the several and respective heirs male of the body of fuch fon and fons, and the heirs male of the body of his and their body and bodies; and, for default of fuch issue, he gave the said lands to all and every the daughter and daughters of the faid Mary Stephens in tail male; and for want of such issue, he devised the said lands to his brother Sir Richard Stephens, his heirs and assigns for ever.

The testator died, leaving William and Thomas Stephens his two grandsons, who both died under age. Soon after the death of the testator, Mary Stephens had another son, who attained the age of 21 years; and the question was, whether this executory devise to such unborn son of Mary Stephens, as should attain the age of 21 years, was good.

Lord Talbot directed a case to be sent to the Court of King's Bench: and the Judges of that Court, Lord Hardwicke, Justices Page, Probyn, and Lee, certified their opinion, that they did not find any case, wherein an executory devise of a freehold had been held good, which had suspended the vesting of the estate till a son unborn should attain his age of 21 years, except the case of Taylor v. Biddall: and, having caused the record to be searched, they found it to agree in the material parts with the printed report; and, therefore, however unwilling they might be to extend executory devises beyond the rules generally laid down by their predecessors, yet, upon the authority of that judgment, and in conformity to several late determinations in cases of terms for years, and, confidering that the power of alienation would not be restrained longer than the law would restrain it, viz. during the infancy of the first taker, which could not reasonably be said to extend to a perpetuity, and that this construction would make the testator's whole disposition take effect, which otherwise would be deseated: they were therefore of opinion, that the devise before mentioned might be good by way of executory devise.

§ 21. In a case, which will be stated hereaster, it was held, that a devise to an infant in ventre matris, with a limitation over, upon failure of issue of his body at his death, was good; which begun with an allowance for the birth of a posthumous child, and might also conclude with it.

Long v. Blackal!, infra ch. 19.

§ 22. But, where an executory devise is limited on an event, which may not happen within the period above mentioned, as upon a general failure of heirs or issue, it is void: nor is it material, in such cases, how the fact actually turns out: for the possibility, at the creation of such executory limitation, that the event on which its existence depends, may exceed, in point of time, the limits allowed, vitiates it ab initio.

A Devile, after a gene. ral Failure of Heirs or Issue, is too remote.

§ 23. A devile over, after a devile to a person and his heirs, in case the first devisee shall happen to die leaving no issue behind him, has been held to be good; those words being construed to mean; leaving no issue living at the time of the person's death.

The Words. "dying without leaving any Issue," rettrained to the Death of the Person.

§ 24. A person devised a real estate in the following Porter v. words:—" Item, I give and devise unto my for " P.D., his heirs and assigns for ever, all that messu-" age and tenement wherein I now live. But my will " is, that in case my son P. D. shall happen to die " leaving no issue behind him, then my said wife shall receive and take the rents and profits thereof."

Bradley, 3 Term R.

On a case, sent from the Court of Chancery to the Court of King's Bench, one of the questions was, Vol. VI. what G g

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xvii. § 24, 25.

what estate P. D. took under this will? All the Judges were of opinion, that this case was not to be distin-Ante s. 5. guished in principle from that of Pells v. Brown, and

certified in the following words:

"Having heard counsel in the case above referred to us, we are of opinion, that P. D. took an estate in see-simple in the premises above devised to him; but, as P. D. died without issue living at the time of his death, we are of opinion, that the further disposition, made by the testator in that event, is good by way of executory devise."

Roev. Jeffery,
7 Term R.

589.

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§ 25. A person devised a dwelling-house to his grandson T. Triswell, and his heirs for ever: but, in case his said grandson should depart this life and leave no issue, then his will was, that the said dwelling-house, &c. should be and return to E. M. and S., or the survivors or survivor of them.

Lord Kenyon said, nothing could be clearer in point of law, than that, if an estate be given to A. in see, and, by way of executory devise, an estate be given over, which may take place within a life or lives in being, and 21 years and the fraction of a year afterwards, the latter is good by way of executory devise. The question, therefore, in this and similar cases, was, whether from the whole context of the will it could be collected, that when an estate was given to A. and his heirs for ever, but if he died without issue, then over, the testator meant dying without issue living at the death of the sirst taker. The rule was settled so long

ago as in the reign of James the First, in the case of Pells v. Brown; where, the devise being to Thomas the fecond fon of the devisor, and his heirs for ever, and if he died without issue, living William his brother, then William should have those lands to him and his heirs for ever, the limitation over was a good executory devise. That case has never been questioned or shaken. but has been adverted to as an authority in every fubsequent case, respecting executory devises: it is considered as a cardinal point on this head of the law, and cannot be departed from without doing as much violence to the established law of the land, as (it was supposed by the defendant's counsel) we should do, if we decided this case against him. On looking through the whole of this will, we have no doubt but that the testator meant, that the dying without issue was confined to a failure of issue at the death of the first taker; for the persons, to whom it is given over, were then in existence, and life estates only given to them. Now, taking all this into confideration together, it is imposfible not to fee that the failure of issue, intended by the testator, was to be a failure of issue at the death of the first taker; and, if so, the rule of law is not to be controverted. It is merely a question of intention; and we are all clearly of opinion, that there is no doubt about the testator's intention.

§ 26. In the case of a devise in see, with an execu- Curtesy attory devise over, a right to curtesy attaches on the First Estate. first estate, and is not defeated by the determination of it.

taches on th

Buckworth

v. Thirkell,
Collec. Jur.
v. 1 332.

§ 27. Joseph Sutton devised to trustees and their heirs, in trust to apply the rents for the maintenance and education of his grand-daughter Mary Barrs, till she should arrive at the age of 21 years, or be married; and from and after the said Mary Barrs should be married, he gave the said lands to the said Mary Barrs, her heirs and assigns for ever. But in case the faid Mary Barrs should die before she attained the age. of 21 years, and without leaving issue, then, from and after the decease of the said Mary Barrs as aforesaid, he gave and devised the said estates to his grandson. Mary Barrs married Solomon Hanford, and had a child which died in her lifetime; and she died soon after, being under the age of 21 years, and without leaving any issue. Solomon Hansord, the husband, received the rents of the estate during the coverture in right of his A question was reserved for the opinion of the court on this case, whether Solomon Hansord was entitled to be tenant by the curtefy.

Lord Mansfield said, the right of tenant by the curtesy existed at the common law, and the necessary points were, that the wise be seised of an estate of inheritance, which, by possibility, might descend to her issue, and that issue should be born. Estates, at common law, were either absolute or conditional: curtesy was incident to both, and existed when the wise died without issue inheritable, which let in the reverter. As to sees conditional, the estate did not become absolute by the birth of a child inheritable; but, in odium of perpetuities, it was for a special purpose become absolute, if issue were born, i. e. the donee might alien;

the estate was to descend and revert according to the entail, if not aliened. At common law, the only modification of estates expressly limited was by condition; the statute of uses introduced more qualifications of estates expressly limited. About the reign of Eliz. and Jac. 1., many cases, in odium of perpetuities, were determined, to prevent and defeat such an application of the statute of uses. The courts leaned against contingent limitations over; but, having gone a great way on that side, they began to think they went too far. New devices were contrived at the time of the troubles, and practised after the Restoration; -trustees to preserve contingent remainders, and executory devises. not long that the bounds of them have been fettled: it was in my time, that the courts first held they might wait during a life in being, and 21 years after. it is contended, that this is a conditional limitation: it is no fuch thing; there is no condition in it; it is a contingent limitation. If it is a limitation, it does not defeat the right of the husband to be tenant by the curtely; the husband may be tenant by the curtely though the estate is spent. But how was it when she was alive? Here the wife was seised in see-simple during her life, and such an one as the issue might inherit, if they had not been disappointed by death.

Vide 1 Inst. 241 a. n. 4.

Judgment, that Solomon Hanford was entitled to be tenant by the curtefy.

TITLE XXXVIII,

DEVISE.

CHAP. XVIII.

Executory Devise.—Devise of a Freehold Estate to commence in futuro.

- § 1. Devise of a Freebold Estate to commence in suturo.
 - 6. Devises of this Sort sometimes supported as Remainders.
 - 12. A Devise of this Sort must west within the Time pre- scribed above.
- 17. A Devise, after a general Failure of Heirs or Issue, is too remote.
- 21. Exceptions, 1st, 1 Devise of a Reversion.
- 26. 2d, A Devise in default of Issue of the Devisor.
- 28. 3d, A Devise over for Life on failure of Issue of the first Devisee.
- 29. 4th, Where an Estate Tail is raised by Implication.

Section 1.

Devise of a Freehold Estate to commence in future. Ex. Dev. 4th Ed. 17. 24.

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MR. FEARNE defines the second fort of executory devise to be, where the devisor, without departing with the immediate see, gives a future estate, to arise either upon a contingency, or at a period certain, unpreceded by, or not having the requisite connexion with, any immediate freehold; to give it essect as a remainder.

Pay's Cale, Cro. Eliz. 878. § 2. One devised lands to J. S. from Michaelmas following, for five years, remainder to the plaintiff and his heirs. The testator died before Michaelmas. It was agreed, that it could not vest eo instanti that the particular

particular estate determined; because of the term of But, being in a will, it was held good as an executory devise.

§ 3. A. devised lands to B. in see, to commence and take effect six months after the testator's death. This was adjudged to be a good executory devise.

Clarke v. Smith, 1 Lutw. 798.

§ 4. A devise to an infant in ventre matris is an executory devise of this kind; as it necessarily implies a future disposition, to take effect at the birth of the Such a devise was formerly held void; but it was always understood, that a 'devise to an infant, when he should be born, was good as an executory devise.

1 Freem. 344. 1 Will. R. 206.

Snow v. Cutler, 1 Lev. 135.

§ 5. Mr. Fearne says, that where a particular estate Ex. Dev. 31. of freehold is first devised, capable in its own nature. of supporting a remainder, followed by a limitation not immediately connected with, or commencing from its expiration, as the latter limitation is incapable of taking effect as a remainder, there seems to be no obstacle to its validity, as an executory devise. Therefore, although in the case of a lease for life to A. and after the death of A. and one day after that the land shall remain to B. for life, it seems that the limitation to B. is void as a remainder, because not to take effect immediately upon the determination of the first estate: yet, in the case of a similar limitation by will, there appears to be no ground for denying effect to such ulterior limitation, as an executory devise.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xviii. 56-9.

Devises of this Sort sometimes supported as remainders. § 6. In consequence of the rule already stated, that no devise shall be considered as executory which may be supported as a remainder, several cases have arisen where there has been a devise of a particular estate, with a devise over; in which the devise over has been held to be a remainder, supported by the preceding particular estate.

Purefoy v. Rogers, 2 Saund. 380. § 7. A testator devised to his wife for life, and to her son after the death of his mother, if she should have a son; and, if such son should die within age, then to the right heirs of the devisor. The testator died without issue: his wife married again, and had a son. It was adjudged that the estate limited to that son, was not an executory devise, but a contingent remainder, because the mother had an estate of free-hold capable of supporting it.

Doe v. Morgan, infra, I. 11.

§ 8. Wherever the first devise can be construed to pass an estate tail only, the devise over will be deemed a remainder expectant on the determination of that estate tail, and not an executory devise.

Spaiding v. Spaining, Cro. Car. 185.

§ 9. John Spalding having iffue three sons, John, Thomas, and William, devised lands to John the eldest son and the heirs of his body, after the death of Alice the devisor's wife; and, if John died living Alice, that William should be his heir: John died leaving a son, in the lifetime of Alice. It was determined that the construction of the will should be, that if John died without issue, living Alice, that then William his youngest son should have it; and that it should not be construed,

construed, where he limited first to John and the heirs of his body, that by this limitation he intended, if he died living Alice, that William should be his heir, John having issue, and thereby to disinherit the heirs of John's body.

§ 10. A testator, having charged certain legacies on his lands, devised that in case his son T. should happen to die before he married; or, being married, should have no children, then his lands should remain and descend equally to his daughters and their heirs, paying, &c. And in case both his daughters should die without being married; or, being married, should have no children, then he willed that all his estate should descend to his nephew J. M. At the end of the will, he gave and devised all his estate, real and personal, not already disposed of by his will, to his fon T. After the testator's death, his fon T. entered, and fuffered a recovery, and died without issue; upon which his fifters entered, and fuffered a recovery, and died without iffue; and then the heir of J. M. entered. The question was, whether the devise to J. M. was a remainder, depending on a particular preceding estate in the son and daughters, or an executory devise.

Lord Hardwicke said there were two rules, which went a great way in determining the case—First, that no limitation shall be construed to be an executory devise, if it can be made good by way of remainder. Secondly, that it was immaterial in a will, which words came first or last; as the construction must be made

Wealthy v. Bosville, Rep. temp. Ld. Hardw. 258.

made upon the whole will, and here, in the subsequent part of the will, there was an express devise of all the residue: so that, taking the two clauses together, there was an express devise to the son. And it was given by the word "estate," which was sufficient to carry the see; so that it amounted to a devise to the son and his heirs, and if he died without issue, remainder, &c. which was an estate tail. But, if that were not so clear, yet as to the daughters no objection could be raised: for there was a devise to them, and if they died without issue, &c. so that their recovery was sufficient to bar the nephew's remainder; and this limitation, being clearly good as a remainder, could not be considered as an executory devise.

Doe ex dem. Mussell v. Morgan, 3 Term R. 763. S 11. George Mussell devised lands to Elizabeth his wife for life, remainder to his son Ebenezer Mussell for ninety-nine years, if he should so long live; and, after the several deceases of his wife and son, to the heirs of the body of Ebenezer. The question was, whether this should be considered as an executory devise or as a contingent remainder.

Hopkins v. Hopkins, infra. Lord Kenyon, C. J. said, that if ever there existed a rule respecting executory devises, which had uniformly prevailed without any exception to the contrary, it was that which was laid down by Lord Hale in the case of Puresoy v. Rogers; that, where a contingency is limited to depend on an estate of freehold, which is capable of supporting a remainder, it shall never be construed to be an executory devise, but a contingent remainder. And therefore his Lordship determined

determined that the devise to the heirs of the body of Ebenezer was a contingent remainder; which was originally supported by the estate for life devised to Elizabeth, and was defeated by the death of Elizabeth before Ebenezer.

- S 12. The rules, established for preventing perpetuities, are applied to the second fort of executory devises, as well as to the first. And therefore in all cases, where a freehold estate is devised to commence in future, it must vest within the compass of a life or lives in being, and twenty-one years and a few months after; otherwise it will be void.
- A Devile of this Sort must vest within the Time prescribed above.

- § 13. It should be observed here, that "by the time of velting," is meant, the velting of the freehold. For although land should be limited for a long term of years, with remainder to the unborn fon of a perfon then living, this executory devife to fuch unborn son would be good; because the vesting of the freehold is confined to the period of a life in being: for upon the birth of such son, the freehold will vest in him; or, upon the death of fuch person without any son, it must vest somewhere else, subject only in either case to the preceding term.
- § 14. William Gore devised certain lands to trustees and their heirs, to the use of the said trustees for five 2P. Wms.28. hundred years, upon several trusts; and, from and after the determination of that estate, then to the use of the first and other sons of the testator's eldest son Thomas Gore, in tail male, remainder over.

Gore

2 P.Wms. 63.

Gore had no son when the testator died, but afterwards had a son. The Court of King's Bench was of opinion, that the devise to the eldest son of Thomas Gore was void; that it could not be good as a remainder, for want of a freehold to support it; and that it could not take effect as an executory devise, because it was too remote (viz.) after five hundred years. But, the case being sent to the Court of King's Bench some years after, Lord Hardwicke, Ch. J. together with the Justices Page, Probyn, and Lee, certified their opinion against the opinion of their predecessors:—"That this was a good executory devise, " and not too remote: for it must in all events one "way or other happen upon the death of Thomas 66 Gore, whether he should have a son or not; and either upon the birth of the son, or upon his death without iffue, the freehold must vest."

§ 15. Where an estate is devised to a person upon. an event, which is too remote; a devise over, depending on the same event, is also void.

Proctor v. Ep. Bath, 2 H. Black. 358.

§ 16. Mary Proctar devised unto the first or other fon of her grandson Thomas Proctor, that should be bred a clergyman, and be in holy orders, and to his heirs and assigns, all her right of presentation to the rectory of West Coker. But, in case her said grandson Thomas Proctor should have no such son, then she gave the said presentation unto her grandson Thomas Moore, his heirs and assigns for ever. Thomas Proctor died without ever having had a son. The question was, whether these devises were good or not.

It was contended that the first devise was void, as being too remote: for Thomas Proctor had no son born at the time of the death of the testatrix; and, if he ever should have a son, he would not necessarily be in orders within twenty-one years after his birth. By the canons of the church no person could be admitted into deacon's orders before the age of twenty-three, without a faculty; nor could he be ordained priest before twenty-four. And the devise to Thomas Moore was liable to the same objection on account of the remoteness of the contingency, on which it was to take effect; for, supposing there had been no previous devise to the son of Thomas Proctor, the devise to Thomas Moore would be to him, if Thomas Proctor should have no son in orders, but no time was fixed for his taking orders; and fuch devise, being void in its original creation, could not be made good by the subsequent circumstance of Thomas Proctor's having no son; and the devises could not be considered as alternate.

The court were very clearly of opinion that the first devise to the son of Thomas Proctor was void, from the uncertainty as to the time when such son, if he had any, might take orders; and that the devise over to Moore, as it depended on the same event, was also void, for the words of the will would not admit of the contingency being divided, as was the case in Longhead v. Phelps: and there was no instance, in 2 Black. R. which a limitation after a prior devise, which was void from the contingency being too remote, had been let in to take effect; but the contrary was expressly de-

cided

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Cb. xviii. \$ 15-18.

6 Bro. Parl. Ca. 451. 1 Vcl. 134.

cided in the House of Lords, in the case of the Earl of Chatham v. Tothill in which the Judges founded their opinion on Butterfield v. Butterfield. Consequently the heir at law of the testatrix was entitled.

ADevise, after a general Failure of Heirsor Issue, is too remote. Doug. 506 n.

§ 17. In consequence of the rule that an estate, devised to commence in futuro, must vest within the period above mentioned, a devise after failure of the issue or heirs of A. where no estate tail is already vested or given by the express words of the will, or arises by implication, to such issue or heirs, is void in its creation: for, if A. should have heirs or issue, they might last for ever; and, while they did, there would be nobody, who would bar the estate thus devised, so that a perpetuity would be created.

Wright v. Hammond, & Vin. Ab. IIO. 1 Stra. 427.

§ 18. T. C. being tenant for life, with remainder to his wife for life, remainder to his own right heirs, made his will; in which were these words—" Item, my land at W. my wife Mary is to enjoy for her life; after her death, it of right goes to my daughter Elizabeth for ever, provided she has heirs: but, if my faid daughter dies before her mother, or without heirs, and my faid wife Mary should marry again, and should have heirs male, I bequeath all my said right in W. to her heirs male by her second husband." Mary the wife died before Elizabeth the daughter; but Mary had married a second husband, and had issue male: and the question was, whether the devise to them was good. It was resolved, that no estate was devised to the daughter; what was said in the will respecting her being only a declaration how the was to enjoy the estate:

estate: for the testator could not say, "it of right "goes to my daughter," if she claimed under the will. It was therefore a devise after a general failure of heirs of the daughter, which was too remote.

S 19. Sir George Lane, upon the marriage of his Lan-ho-; son James Lane, settled certain lands to the use of himself for life, remainder to his son James Lane, for ninety-nine years if he should so long live, remainder to trustees and their heirs during the life of James, to support contingent remainders; remainder to the first and other sons of the said James by his then intended wife, successively in tail male; remainder to the heirs-male_ v: 2: of the body of James; remainder to the right heirs of Sir George. The marriage was duly had; and afterwards Sir George made his will, and devised the lands comprised in the settlement, on failure of issue of the body of the said James Lane, and for want of heirs male of his own body, to his daughter Frances Lane, and the heirs of her body. And in a subsequent part of his will he devised that, if his son James Lane should die without issue male, and his (the testator's) wife furvived him, his said wife should have his house and park at Rathline during her life.

After the death of Sir George Lane (who became Lord Lanesborough), leaving James his only son and heir, and two daughters by his first wife, and the said Frances Lane by his second wife; the trustees joined with James Lane in making a tenant to the pracipe; and a common recovery was suffered of the estates, comprised in the settlement.

James

James Lane, Lord Lanesborough, died without issue! and Frances Lane having married Henry Fox, and died, leaving issue George Fox, her eldest son, he brought an ejectment for the recovery of the estates A special verdict was found; and judgment was given in the Courts of Exchequer and Exchequer Chamber for the plaintiff Fox. Upon an appeal to the House of Lords of England, two questions were put to the Judges—1st, Whether Lord James took any other of greater estate by the will, than by the settlement? To which they answered, that Lord James could not take any estate tail, no alteration being made by the will; and that no estate was raised to Lord James by impli-Forrest. Rep. cation. 2d, Whether, Frances Lane took any estate under the will of Lord George? To which they answered, that she took no estate whatever; but that the devise to her was absolutely void in its creation, as being on too remote a contingency. Whereupon the judgement was reversed.

267.

Vide infra.

Goodman v. Geodright, 3 Blackst. R. 188. Doug. R. 507.

§ 20. Mrs. Mostyn, on the marriage of her niece (and afterwards her heir at law) Mrs. Wynn with Dr. Wynn, entered into articles, covenanting to settle an estate for life to Mrs. Wynn, with remainder to the issue of that marriage in tail; reversion to herself in fee, whenever Dr. Wynn should have settled her own estate to the same uses. Mrs. Mostyn by her her last will, reciting the said articles, gave her equitable reversion in the premises to the heirs of the body of Mrs. Wynn by any after-taken husband; and, for want of fuch issue, remainder over to Charles Lloyd in tail. Mrs. Wynn died without issue, living her husband. It

was determined, that this was a future executory devise of the reversion to the heirs of the body of Mrs. Wynn by her second husband (during the first marriage) Habergham on failure of the heirs of her body by the first; which 5 Term R.92. was too remote, and therefore void.

v. Vincent,

§ 21. There are, however, some cases, in which Exceptions. a devise, after a general failure of heirs or issue, is good. First, where a person who is intitled to a reversion expectant on the determination of an estate tail, devises the lands to another, after failure of issue of the tenant in tail; this is held to be an immediate devise of the reversion, and therefore good: for the estate devised commences upon the death of the testator; and the words, which have a future prospect, are used to denote, not the commencement of the estate devised, but the event on which the estate shall take effect in possession, and there can be no danger of a perpetuity; because the reversion thus devised may be barred at any time by a recovery, suffered by the person having the preceding estate tail.

1st, A Devile of a Reversion.

§ 22. Thus, where a person conveyed his estate to Badger v. the use of himself for ninety-nine years, if he should so long live, remainder to his wife in the same manner, remainder to his fon John in the same manner; remainder to trustees and their heirs during the lives of the father and fon, to preserve contingent remainders; remainder to the first and other son of the sons in tail male; remainder to the father in fee. The father made his will: and, after reciting the settlement, devised the lands after the death of his son without issue Vol. VI. Hh male,

Lloyd, 1 Ld. Raym. 523. 1 Salk. 232.

male, to another fon. It was objected, that the devise was executory; and, as it could only take effect upon the death of the fon without issue, it was void as being too remote. But to this it was answered that here, a man seised of a reversion, expectant on an estate tail, devised is, after the death of the tenant in tail without issue, to another; this was not an executory, but an immediate devise: and the words "from and after," were only a declaration, when it should take effect in possession. If the son had not an estate tail in the land, but the devises had been after the death of a stranger without issue, they would have been executory devises, and void by reason of the remoteness of the possibility. But here they were limited after the determination of the particular estate.

Fearne, Ex. Dev. 326.

§ 23. In the case of Lanesborough v. Fox, Mr. Fearne observes, that the limitation to the daughter was future, to arise after failure of issue of the body of B. and of heirs male of the body of A. Now, there was no subsisting estate extending to the issue of the body of B. (generally), the settlement being confined to his first and other sons in tail male, and the heirs male of his body: nor indeed was there any estate tail in A. himself, to extend to the heirs male of his own body, therefore the estate devised to A. could not be considered as the devise of a reversion expectant on such preceding estates. And though it should be granted that, as A. had but one son, and there was a limitation by the settlement to the first and other sons of such son in tail male, the devise for want of heirs male of his (A.'s) own body, might have

have been construed as a devise of the reversion expectant on failure of the sons of his said son, and the heirs male of their bodies, yet as there was no pre-existing estate extending to issue semale of the body of B. it was impossible to consider the devise on failure of issue (generally) of the body of B. as the devise of a reversion, expectant on failure of such issue; there being no preceding estate extending to that period; consequently, unless such a preceding estate was raised by implication, which was not admitted, the devise to F, was not the devise of a reversion, but was an executory limitation unsupported by any preceding estate; and, being not to take effect till after a general failure of issue, was therefore too remote.

§ 24. A. upon his intermarriage with B. had settled certain lands, &c. in the counties of M. and G. upon himself for life, remainder to trustees to support contingent remainders, remainder (subject to a jointure rent-charge to his wife) to his first and other sons by the said B. successively in tail male, reversion to himself in fee, subject to the several trust terms usually limited in settlements for securing pin-money and raising portions for younger children and daughters). Afterwards A., having two sons of that marriage, W. and E., made his will; and after giving certain specific things to his said wife and two sons, and making a disposition of certain other lands in the said counties which he had purchased since his marriage, proceeded in the words following, viz.—" And for a much as it " is my will, intent, and meaning, that in case my " said two sons now living, or any other son or sons Hh2 " of

Jones v.
Morgan,
3 Bro. Par.
Cales 322.

of mine lawfully begotten, hereafter to be born, " should die without issue male of their bodies, or of " the body of some or one of them lawfully to be be-66 gotten, after their respective decease without issue " male as aforesaid, that then all and singular my "messuages, lands, &c. in the several counties of M. " and G. not herein before devised, shall be devised " and settled to and for the several uses, &c. hereinafter mentioned, &c. It is therefore my intent and " meaning, that in case my said sons W. and E., or " any other fon or fons of mine hereafter to be born " as aforesaid, shall happen to die respectively with-" out any issue male of their bodie, or of the body " of some or one of them as aforesaid, and in such " case if it shall so happen, then I give and devise the remainder of all and fingular my messuages, lands, " &c. in the several counties of M. and G. and not "herein and hereby before devised, and the reversion " and reversions, remainder and remainders of the " same premises to my (said) brother T. for and "during the term of his natural life, without im-" peachment of waste; but subject nevertheless to the " feveral provisoes and payments mentioned and con-" tained in my said marriage settlement." And then the testator limits the same lands to trustees during the life of T: to preserve contingent remainders, remainder to T. M. fon of T. during his life, remainder to the first and other sons of T. M. with divers remain-• ders over: and he appointed his wife one of five. guardians of such of his (the testator's) children, as should be under age at the time of his death, and also one of the executors of his will. The

The testator died, leaving his said wife B. and his faid two fons and two daughters by her. And one of the questions upon this will was, Whether the said residuary devise over to T. and his son, &c. was not void, as being a future limitation not to take effect till after the failure of issue of persons who took no preceding estate, namely of all other sons of A. by any future wife: for this limitation to T. was not expressed to take effect upon failure of issue male of the testator's sons by his then wife; in which case it would have been good as an immediate devise of the reversion, expectant on the estates in tail male limited to such fons by the settlement; but the words were general and comprehensive, extending in point of expression, as well to the future sons of the testator by any after taken wife, as by his then wife; and, if so, this limitation could not be a devise of the reversion immediately expectant on the estates subsisting or created by the settlement, but was a future devise without any preceding estate to support it: and then, as it could not take effect as a remainder, it could be considered only as an executory devise; in which light it must be void, for it was too remote, as being limited to vest on a general failure of issue.

In support of the devise it was contended, that the testator had not a suture marriage in view, or any children not provided for by the settlement; that this appeared from his giving some specific legacies to his wife, naming her one of his executors and one of the guardians of his children. Therefore the words, "or any other son or sons," Sc. should be understood as Hh 3 confined

confined to fons by his then wife; and, under that construction, the limitation in question would be as good as an immediate devise of the reversion, subject to the estates created by the settlement. Or, that if those words did extend to children by a future marriage, still the limitation in question might be supported, by raising implied estates tail to such children.

Upon a case stated for the Judges of the King's Bench upon this devise, they certified, "That they "were of opinion, that the event of a second mar-" riage was not in the testator's contemplation; but " supposing that, from the generality of the descrip-"tion, the words "any after-born son" should be " extended to the fon of any future marriage, they " were of opinion, that from the manifest intent of "the testator expressly declared in his will, such son "must take an estate tail: consequently they were of opinion that, either way, a remainder after estates " tail was devised to T. who by virtue of the said ' " limitation, upon failure of the sons of the testator " without issue male, was entitled to all the lands " in the counties of M. and G. devised by the " residuary clause in the said will, for life, with remainder according to the limitations in the faid · < will."

The Lord Chancellor decreed accordingly. He concurred entirely with the opinion certified by the Judges in regard to the event of a future marriage not being in the testator's contemplation; and consequently

quently that the words, "or any other fon or fons," were to be restrained to sons of the first marriage. But as to the raising an estate tail to any sons of a future marriage by implication, he expressed himself inclined to the opinion, that he was bound by the decision of the House of Lords in the case of Lanesborough v. Fox, as a direct authority against the admitting such implication.

Upon an appeal to the House of Lords from this decree, it was affirmed, agreeably to unanimous opinion of the Judges, founded (as appeared by what was expressed by the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in delivering their opinion) upon the very same ground to which the Lord Chancellor seemed to think himself confined, viz. upon the presumption that the event of a future marriage was not in the testator's contemplation: and that therefore the words, " or if " any other fon or fons," &c. must be understood of sons of the testator by his then wife.

§ 25. J. R. Lytton being an infant entered into Lytton articles on his marriage; by which he agreed to settle 4 Bro. Rep. his estate, after his own decease, to the intent that his intended wife should receive a certain jointure; and subject thereto to the first and other sons of the marriage in tail, remainder to himself in see. J. R Lytton suffered a recovery, when he came of age, but never made a settlement in pursuance of the articles. Fifteen years after, being in a weak state of health, and his wife living, he made his will; and, having given his wife a rent-charge in satisfaction of the articles, Hh4

cles, he gave and devised his estate, on failure of issue male of his body, to trustees to raise money for the payment of his debts, and subject thereto to his nephew in strict settlement. Lord Northington declared, that the devise to the nephew, after a general failure of issue male, was void; the contingency being too remote.

Upon a bill of review Lord Loughborough said, that this case did not appear to have been determined after that deliberation, which would give it the sanction due to a decree of Lord Northington. The case of Lanes. borough v. Fox was considered as governing this case; but, when fairly examined, there could not be a greater dissimilitude. Here the testator had had no child for feveral years; his only child was just dead; the devisee was his next and immediate heir; but he introduced the devise by the words, "in failure of issue male." Could this mean more than to take in the event, which alone prevented the estate from being the subject of an immediate devise? He certainly had the articles in contemplation: there was no prospect of issue at the time; it was not like Lord Lanesborough's case, who had issue, and might have many more; it would be a harsh construction, that the testator had here the idea of a future issue in contemplation, and an indefinite failure of that issue: he meant to give an immediate estate in possession, at his decease; every clause in the will shewed this intention. It was manifest he had no intention of giving an estate after a general failure of issue. The circumstances of the testator ' Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xviii. \$ 25-27.

testator and his family had always been taken into consideration in these cases.

Decreed, that the declaration made by Lord Northington should be reversed.

§ 26. Secondly, a devise in default of issue of the testator's own body has been construed to be a conditional devise to take effect at the death of the testator, and has therefore been held not to be executory; because it must be determined at the instant when the will takes effect, that is, at the death of the testator.

2d, A Devilor in default of Issue of the Devilor.

§ 27. On a case sent out of Chancery for the opinion of the Court of King's Bench, the facts were— Richard Cary, after directing all his debts to be paid, devised thus.—" Item, in default of issue of my own body, I give to trustees and their heirs," &c. in trust to pay his fister an annuity of 100% till his debts and legacies were paid; and, after payment thereof, to his fifter for life with divers remainders over in strict settlement. It was objected that this devise, being after an indefinite failure of issue, was executory and too remote: to which it was answered, that it was not executory, but depended on a precedent condition, upon which the testator intended the whole should take effect. That the words, "in default of iffue," were different from the words " on failure of issue:" the one implied that the devisor never should have issue; the other that he should have issue which should afterwards fail. The first contingency must be determined

Willington v. Willington,
1 Black. R.
645.

Trench v. Cadell, 3 Bro. Parl. Ca. 257.

mined at his own death; the latter might be suspended for ages. The court certified that the trustees took a base see, determinable on the payment of the testator's debts and legacies out of the profits of the estate; and (as Sir William Blackstone conceived) principally upon the idea of the will's being merely conditional, in case he left no issue of his body.

gd, A Devise over for Life on failure of Issue of the first Devisee. Fearne Ex. Dev. 279. Doe v. Lyde, infra ch. 19. § 28. An executory devise over for life to a person in esse, to take place after a dying without issue of the first devisee, may be good; because, the future limitation being only for the life of a person in esse, it must necessarily take place during that life, or not at all: and therefore the failure of issue, in that case, is confined to the compass of a life in being.

4th, Where an Estate Tail is raised by Implication. § 29. There are also several cases, in which the courts have supported a devise over, after a general failure of heirs or issue, by raising an estate tail by implication in the person, on the failure of whose heirs or issue the estate is devised over: for in that case the second devise is supported as a remainder, expectant on the determination of such prior estate tail.

Ante ch, 12.

§ 30. In the case of Walter v. Drew, which has been already stated, the court having held that Richard, the testator's eldest son, took an estate tail by implication; it followed that the devise over to the William was good as a remainder.

S 31. In the case of Jones v. Morgan, the Judges Ante (. 24. of the King's Bench appear from their certificate to have been of opinion, that, if a second marriage was in the contemplation of the testator, then an estate tail was raised by implication to the sons of that marriage; and therefore that the devise over was good, as a remainder expectant on the determination of that estate tail.

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. XIX.

Executory Devises of Terms for Years.

- § 1. A Bequest over of a Term for Years was formerly void.
 - 2. But such a Bequest is now good.
 - 5. And also a similar Declaration of Trust of a Term.
 - 6. Though to a Person not in effe, or not ascertained.
 - 9. The Devisee for Life cannot bar the Devise over.
 - 12. Within what Time an Executory Bequest of a Term must west.
 - 13. Where limited after a general Failure of Issue, is void.
 - 16. Such Limitations cannot be fupported as Remainders.

- § 17. Where the Failure of Iffice is confined to a Life or Lives in being, &c. it is good.
 - 13. The Words, dying without

 Iffue, sometimes restrained to the Death of a Person in esse.
 - 29. No Distinction between Words giving an express Estate Tail, or by Implication.
 - 31. Nor between a Devise for Life and an indefinite Devise.
 - 33. An Executory Devise for Life after a general Failure of Issue, is good.

Section 1.

A Bequest over of 2 Term for Years was formerly void. 1 Bur. 284. it was held, that if a term for years was given to a person for life, with a remainder over, the bequest of the remainder was void; because an estate for life being of greater estimation in the eye of the law than the longest term for years, it was concluded, that the limitation of a term for years, to a person for life, was a complete disposition of it; and, therefore, nothing remained

mained to be given over. Another reason for this doctrine was, that the possibility of a term's continuing longer than the life of the person, to whom it was first bequeathed, was not such an interest as by the rules of law could be limited over.

§ 2. When long and beneficial terms came in use, the convenience of families required, that they might be settled in the same manner as freehold estates. And, in a case, which arose in 19 Eliz., the Judges determined, that a bequest of the residue of a term for years, after a previous disposition for life, was good.

But fuch a Bequest is now good.

§ 3. Edward Manning, being possessed of the moiety of a farm and mill for the term of 50 years, devised his indenture of lease of the farm and mill, and all 95. the years therein to come, to Matthew Manning, after the death of Mary Manning his wife, (which farm and mill his will was, that Mary Manning his wife. should enjoy during her life), conditionally, that the faid M. Manning should not devise, sell, or give the said lease, but leave it wholly to John his son, &c. It was resolved, that this devise to Matthew Manning was good, not by way of remainder, but by way of executory devise.

Matthew Manning's Case, 8 Rep.

§ 4. John Morrice, being possessed of a house for Lampet's the term of 5000 years, devised it to John Morrice his father for the term of the natural life of the said John Morrice, and, after his decease, the remainder of the

Case, 10 Rep.

said house to Elizabeth the sister of the testator, and to the heirs of the body of the said Elizabeth.

Upon the question, whether this executory devise after the death of John Morrice was good, when the term itself, and not the use or occupation of it for life, was devised to the first devisee for life: it was resolved, that in such case also the executory devise over was good.

And also a fimilar Declaration of Trust of a Term.
1 Bur. 184.

\$ 5. The same necessity, which induced the Judges to allow of executory bequests of terms for years, required, that similar limitations might be allowed in deeds, by which the trusts of terms were declared: and, therefore, says Lord Mansfield, to get out of the literal authority of old cases, an ingenious distinction was invented; a remainder might be limited for the residue of the years, but not for the residue of the term. And, in the reign of Charles 2., it was settled, that the limitation of the trust of a term should be governed and guided by the same rules in equity, as the devise of a term was, at law; and that such limitations as would be good in one case, would be so in the other, et \(\partial \conversion\).

1 Vern, 235.

. Though to a

in esse, or not ascertained.

Person not

§ 6. Where the person, to whom a term for years is limited over, after a previous disposition of it to another for life, is not in esse, or not ascertained, still the limitation over will be good.

Cotton v. Heath, 1 Roll. Ab. 612. 1 Ab. Eq. 191.

§ 7. A termor for years devised the term to his wife for 18 years, and after to his eldest son for life, and

and after to the eldest issue male of that son for life. was held, that although the son had not any issue male at the time of the devise and death of the testator, yet that, if he had issue male at his death, such issue male should have it as an executory devise: for that, notwithstanding its being a contingency upon a contingency, and the issue not being in effe at the time of the devise, yet, inasmuch as it was limited to the fon but for life, it was good, and all one with Manning's case.

- § 8. Although a devise of a term for years to a perfon and the heirs of his body vests the entire and absolute property of the term in him, if not restrained by subsequent words, yet, if a devise over of it is made, which is within the rules established for preventing perpetuities, it will be supported as an executory devise.
- § 9. It was refolved in Manning's case, and also in Lampet's case, that in devises of this sort, after the executor has affented to the first devise, it is not in the power of the first devisee to bar the limitation over: nor will any subsequent union of the freehold or inheritance, with the interest so given to the first devisee, Fearne Ex. or a feoffment, or other act of forfeiture, by such first devisee, extinguish or affect the interest of the ulterior devisee.

The Devilee for Life cannot bar the Devise over.

§ 10. W., possessed of a house for a term of years, devised the profits thereof to J. during the time she should continue sole; and then devised the term to R.

v. Rudyard, cited to Rep.

anid

480

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xix. S 10—13. and died. J. entered by affent of the executor, and afterwards purchased the fee.

It was resolved that, although the whole term was in J. quousque, &c. so that, by the purchase of the see-simple, ber interest became extinct, yet the same did not deseat the executory devise to R.; but that, after the marriage of J., and not before, he might enter \dagger .

Ante f. 7.

§ 11. In the case of Cotton v. Heath, the eldest son, to whom the term was devised for life, made a scoffment of the lands, whereupon the reversioner in secentered for the forseiture; and it was decreed, that the second and entry for the forseiture did not destroy the executory bequest.

Within what Time an executory Bequest of a Term must vest. S 12. When it was settled that an executory bequest of a term for years could not be barred, it became necessary to apply the same rule to this kind of limitation, as to executory devises of estates of inheritance; namely, that it should vest within the compass of a life or lives in being, and 21 years and some months after.

Where limited after a general Failure of Issue, is void. § 13. In consequence of this principle, it has been long settled, that, where a term for years is given over, after a general and indefinite failure of heirs or issue, it is void, as being too remote.

[†] A distinction was formerly made between a devise of a term and a devise of the land, which is now exploded.

§ 14. A lessee, for 1000 years, without impeach- Bursord v. ment of waste, devised to L.; and, if he died without 210. issue, then to B. The court held that the devise over was void; and that the whole vested in L., his executors and administrators.

Lee, 2 Freem.

§ 15. A person devised a term for years to his wife for life; and, after her decease, to Nicholas his son for life; and, if Nicholus his son should die without issue of his body begotten, then he devised it over to Barnaby. The whole court was unanimously of opinion, that the remainder to Barnaby was void: for that, as he could not take until the death of Nicholas without issue, it was the same in effect as if it had been to Nicholas and the heirs of his body, with remainder to Barnaby; which devise would have been clearly bad, because, after a term is devised to one and the beirs of his body, no other limitation, nor any appointment of it by way of executory devise, can be made; for the law will not presume any term to have continuance, so long as issue of the body may continue; and, therefore, a limitation in this respect, after an indefinite failure of issue, depends upon too remote a possibility.

Love v. Windham, 1 Mod. 50.

It was certified accordingly to the Court of Chancery, that Barnaby the plaintiff had no title.

§ 16. In cases of this kind, the bequest over cannot be supported as a remainder, by raising an estate tail in the first taker; because a term for years cannot be intailed: nor can a remainder over be limited of a term, after a disposition of it to a person and the heirs

Such Limitations cannot be supported as Remainders. Tit. 8, c. 2. **f.** 18.

Vol. VI.

Ii

of

of his body; because such a disposition gives the entire and absolute property of the term, so that nothing remains to be given over.

Where the Failure of Issue is confined to a Life or Lives in being, &c. it is good.

§ 17. If a term for years is given over, upon a failure of issue or heirs, and there are words to restrain the failure of such issue within the compass of a life or lives in being, and 21 years and some months after, the bequest will be good, as being within the rules established by the courts for preventing perpetuities. This doctrine was first laid down in the case of a declaration of trust of a term by deed; but, as executory devises and declarations of trust of terms for years are governed by the same rules, that, and all the other cases, respecting declarations of trust of terms for years, will be stated in this chapter.

Duke of Norfolk's Case, 3 Ch. Ca. 1. Pollexf. 223.

S 18. The trusts of a term of 500 years were declared to Henry Howard (second son of the Earl of Arundel) and the heirs male of his body, so long 28 Thomas Lord Maltravers, eldest son of the Earl of Arundel, or any issue male of his body should be living. But, in case Thomas Lord Maltravers should die without issue male in the lifetime of Henry Howard, not leaving his wife ensient of a son, or in case, after the death of Thomas Lord Maltravers without issue male, the Earldom of Arundel should descend to Henry Howard, then the said Henry Howard and his issue to have no benefit of this term, but it should go over to Charles Howard the next brother.

Thomas Lord Maltravers became Duke of Norfolk, and died without issue, having never been married, whereby the Earldom of Arundel descended on Henry Howard: and the plaintiff Charles Howard claimed. this term under the limitation to him.

This cause was heard before Lord Chancellor Nottingham, assisted by Lord Chief Baron Montague, and the Chief Justices North and Pemberton.

The Two Chief Justices and the Chief Baron agreed, that the limitations of trusts of terms, and executory devises of terms, ought to be governed by the same rules; that no limitation over of a term for years after an estate fail, had ever been permitted; that, as no direct remainder could be limited over in such a case, so, neither could a contingent remainder be limited over, although the event on which it was limited should happen ever so soon; that the case of Child v. Insra. Bayley was a positive authority against the validity of a limitation of this kind, the admission of which would be productive of perpetuities; and, therefore, they were unanimously of opinion, that the limitation over to Charles Howard was void.

Lord Chancellor Nottingham.—The great objection, which has been made to the validity of this limitation, is, that it tends to a perpetuity. A perpetuity is the fettlement of an estate or interest in tail, with such remainders expectant on it, as are not in the power of the tenant in tail to dock, by any means whatsoever; but must continue as perpetual clogs on the estate. Ii2 But

But future interests, springing trusts, or trusts executory, and remainders which are to arise upon contingencies, are quite out of the rules and reason of perpetuities, if they are limited on events which must soon happen. No principle of law has been oftener laid down than this, that there can be no remainder of a freehold estate limited after a fee-simple; yet the nature of things, and the commerce between man and man, have induced the Judges to relax this rule, and allow of executory fees, in devises and conveyances to But it is faid, that a leafe for years, which is but a chattel, will not bear a contingent limitation, on account of its meanness: as to this point, the difference between a chattel and an inheritance is a difference only in words, and not in reason; for the owner of a lease has as absolute a power over it, as a person, who is seised in see, has over the inheritance. If a springing trust of a term is not allowed, as well as a springing use of an inheritance, men possessed of terms for years will not be capable of making that provision for their families, which the laws of every country ought to support.

Suppose a man, possessed of no other property than a long term for years, should, on the marriage of his son, assign this term to trustees, in trust for himself and his executors, until the marriage takes effect, and from the solemnization of the marriage, to the son for life, remainder to his wife for life, &c.; surely this would not be a void limitation in a marriage settlement: and, if this springing trust to arise on the contingency of a marriage be good, why should not the springing trust

in the present case be equally good? If the estate had been limited to Henry Howard, and the heirs male of his body, until the death of Thomas Lord Maltravers without issue, generally, and then to Charles, the limitation would certainly have been void: but the addition of the words, " if Thomas Lord Maltravers die with-" out issue in the lifetime of Henry," entirely alters the case, as the event, on which the term is limited over, is thereby circumscribed to the period of a life then in being: and, as a chattel interest will bear a remainder over where there is no danger of a perpetuity, it must, of course, bear a remainder over upon a contingency, which must inevitably happen during the existence of a life in being.

The principal authority against the plaintiff in this cause, is the case of Child v. Bayley: this case is variously reported; the true state of it is this: A term of Cro. Ja. 459. 76 years was devised by a person to his wife for life, then to his son William and his assigns for all the rest of the term; provided that, if William died without issue then living, the term should go over to Thomas, which I agree to be the same as the present case. The remainder to Thomas was held to be void in its creation; but the resolution, in that case, went upon several reasons, which are not to be found in this case; and besides, that case has been contradicted since. In Pollexs. 35. the case of Wood v. Saunders, the trust of a long term was limited to the father for 60 years, if he should so long live, then to the mother in the same manner, then to John the fon and his executors if he survived his father and mother; and if he died in their lifetime

having issue, then to his issue; but if he died in the lifetime of his father and mother without issue, then remainder over to his brother. John died without issue in the lifetime of his father and mother: and the question was, whether the limitation over to Edward was good?

It was resolved by Lord Keeper Bridgeman, affished by Twisden and Rainsford Justices, that the limitation over to Edward was good; as the contingency, on which it was to take place, must happen during the existence of two lives then in being. Thus we see, that Sir Orlando Bridgeman, who drew the deeds in the present case, continued of the same opinion that he was of when a conveyancer.

It was decreed, that the limitation over to Charles Howard was good.

Lamb v. Archer, I Salk. 225. § 19. Upon a special verdict, the case was this:— H., possessed of a term for years, devised his land to A., and the heirs of his body; and, if A. died without issue living B., then to B. The court held this was a good limitation to B, the contingency arising within the compass of a life.

Fletcher's
Case, 1 Ab.
Eq. 193.

§ 20. A person devised a term for years to his wife for life, and, after her death, to B. F. for her life, and after her death, to T. F. and his children; and then devised in this manner: "And, if it shall happen that the said T. F. do die before the expiration of the said term, not having issue of his body then living," then

to go over to the plaintiffs for the residue of the term. This bequest was held good, the failure of issue being confined to the life of T. F.

§ 21. A case, sent from the Court of Chancery, Long v. for the opinion of the Judges of the Court of King's 7 Term R. Bench, stated that George Blackall, being possessed of a term for years, devised it, after the death of his wife, to the child, with which the testator's wife was then ensient, in case it should be a son, during his life; and, after his decease, then to such issue male, or the descendants of such issue male of such child, as at the time of his death should be his heir at law; and, in case at the time of the death of such child, there should be no such issue male, nor any descendants of such issue male then living, or in case such child should not be a son, then he bequeathed the same to Philippa Long, her executors, &c.

The wife of the testator was ensient at the time of. making the will, and when the testator died; and had a son, who died without issue. The question directed by the Chancellor was, whether the limitation to Phi-. lippa was good?

Lord Kenyon Chief Justice.—The rules respecting executory devises have conformed to the rules laid down in the construction of legal limitations; and the courts have said, that the estate shall not be unalienable by executory devises for a longer time than is allowed by the limitations of a common law conveyance. marriage settlements, the estate may be limited to the Ii4 first

first and other sons of the marriage in tail, and, until the person to whom the last remainder is limited is of age, the estate is unalienable. In conformity to that rule, courts of law have said, so far we will allow executory devises to be good. To support this decision, I could refer to many decisions: but it is sufficient to refer to the Duke of Norfelk's case, in which all the learning on this head was gone into; and from that time to the present, every judge has acquiesced in that decision. It is an established rule, that an executory devise is good, if it must necessarily happen within a life or lives in being, and 21 years and the fraction of another year, allowing for the time of gestation.

Mr. Justice Lawrence.—The devise over, in this case, must take effect, if at all, after a life which must be in being within nine months after the devisor's death.

The Judges certified, that the limitation to Philippa was good.

\$ 22. It is observable, that this case began with a devise to a posthumous child for life, with a limitation over, upon failure of issue of his body at his death; which, of course, would include an heir male then in ventre sa mere: for, as the devise began with the allowance for the birth of a posthumous child, and also might conclude with it, the time might be claimed twice over; and so the time allowed for the birth of a posthumous child, after lives in being and 21 years, might be enlarged to two periods of gestation. But the determination

nation has been confirmed, after great deliberation, in a subsequent case, which will be stated hereafter.

Thellusson, infra c. 20.

§ 23. In the case of executory bequests of terms for years, the Court of Chancery has very much inclined to lay hold of any words in a will, to restrain the generality of the words "dying without issue," and confine them to dying without issue living at the time of the person's decease, in order to support the intention of the testator: for, by this construction, the devise over becomes valid, being confined to the period of a life in being.

The Words,
"dying without Issue,"
fometimes restrained to
Death of a
Person in esse.

§ 24. One possessed of a term for years, devised it, by his will, to his son Henry for life, and no longer; and, after his decease, to such of the issue of the said Henry, as Henry by his will should appoint: and in case Henry should die without issue, the testator devised the same to his brother Albinus, for the residue of the term, and died. Henry died without issue living at his death: whereupon, the question was, whether the term should go to the executors of the first testator, or to the executors of Henry, or to Albinus.

Target v. Gaunt, 1 P. Wms. 432.

It was objected, that the devise over of a term, upon a dying without issue, was void; being too remote an expectancy, and tending to a perpetuity.

Lord Chancellor Parker held, that the expression, dying without issue," had two senses. 1st, A legal sense, and that was, whenever there was a failure of issue; and if the will, in this case, was to be taken in a vulgar

a vulgar sense, viz. if Henry died without leaving issue at the time of his death, then the devise over to Albinus was good. Now, this seemed to be the meaning of the testator: for it must be intended such issue as he should, or at least might, appoint the term to, which must be intended issue then living; and this construction should be more favoured, as it supported the will, whereas the other destroyed it. Therefore, the court held, that the devile over of the term to Albinus was good; and observed, that there was a great divertity between a devise of a freehold estate to A. for life, and if A. dies without issue, then to B., and a devise of a term in the same words: for, in the former case, this might give A. an estate tail, because the words, " if A. die without issue," in case of an inheritance, are inserted in favour of the issue, to let them in after the death of the father; but in case of a term, these words cannot have that effect, for the father takes the whole, which, on his death, will not go to his issue, but to his executors.

Forth v. Chapman, 1P.Wm.663.

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5 25. A term for years was devised to William Gore and Walter Gore, and, if either of his nephews William or Walter should depart this life and leave no issue of their respective bodies, then he gave the said leafe-hold premises to the daughter of his brother Williams Gore, &c.

The Master of the Rolls was of opinion, that the devise over was void; and said that, had the words been, if A. or B. should die without issue, remainder

over.

over, this plainly would have been void, and exactly the case of Love v. Windbam.

Ante f. 15.

On an appeal to Lord Chancellor Parker, the decree was reversed: and his Lordship said, if a term was devised to A., and if A. die without leaving issue, remainder over, in the vulgar and natural sense this must be intended, if A. died without leaving issue at his death, and then the devise over is good; that the word "die" being the last antecedent, the words, "without leaving issue," must refer to that. Besides, the testator, who is inops consistin, will, under such circumstances, be supposed to speak in the vulgar, common, and natural, not in the legal sense.

His Lordship likewise took notice, that in a formedon in remainder, where a tenant in tail leaves issue, which issue afterwards dies without issue, whereupon such writ is brought, the formedon says that the tenant in tail died leaving issue J. S., which J. S. died afterwards without issue, and so the first donee in tail died without issue, thus the pleading says, that the donee in tail died leaving issue at his death, consequently the words, leaving issue, refer to the time of the death of the tenant in tail; and if the words of a will can bear two senses, one whereof is more common and natural than the other, it is hard to say the court should take the will in the most uncommon meaning, to destroy the will.

He faid, the reason why a devise of a freehold to one for life, and if he die without issue, then to another, is determined to be an estate tail, is in favour of the issue, that such may have it, and the intent takes place. But that there is the plainest difference between a devise of a freehold and a devise of a term for years; for, in a devise of the latter to one, and if he die without issue, then to another, the words, "if he die without issue," cannot be supposed to have been inserted in favour of such issue, since they cannot by any construction have it.

Atkinfon v. Hutchinfon, 3P.Wm. 258. § 26. Edward Baxter, being possessed of a term for 40 years, devised it to trustees, in trust for the testator's wife for life; and, after her death, to the use of such children as the testator should leave at the time of his death; and, in case all his said children should die without leaving any issue, then to the use of John Hutchinson.

Lord Chancellor Talbet said, where words are eapable of a twofold construction, even in the case of a deed, and much more in that of a will, it was just and reasonable that such construction should be received, as tended to make it good. And, in this case, the devise of the term to the testator's children, and if they should die without issue then to Hutchinson, might easily and naturally be understood to signify, if they died without leaving any issue at the time of their death; nay, much more naturally than in the other case, viz. if there should be a failure of issue of them a hundred years after. He cited the cases of Target v. Gaunt, and Forth v. Chapman, and decreed in savour of the devise over, viz. that the words, "if the first devisee "died

" died without leaving any issue," must be understood to mean without leaving issue at his death.

§ 27. A person, possessed of lands for a term of Goodtille v. years, gave them to his grandson T. B. Peake, son of Pagden, 2 Term R. D. and Sarah Peake, and the heirs lawful of him for 720. ever. But, in case he should happen to die and leave no lawful heir, then, and in that case, he gave them, after the death of the said T. B. Peake, to the next eldest son or heir of the said D. Peake and Sarab his T. B. Peake took possession of the leasehold estate in question under the will, and died without issue.

Lord Kenyon said that, on conference with the rest! of the Court, they were clearly of opinion, that the limitation over was good. This was a chattel interest limited to T. B. Peake and the heirs lawful of him for ever; but in case he should happen to die, and leave no lawful heir, then over, \mathfrak{S}_c . Now, it was apparent on the will, that the testator, by "lawful heirs," meant "heirs of the body;" and, leaving no lawful her, must be confined to leaving no issue at the time of his death.

§ 28. The following case was sent by the Master of Wilkinson v. the Rolls, for the opinion of the Court of King's Bench. A person devised a leasehold house to his 555. wife, Mary Parker, during the term of her natural life, and, after her decease, to go to his son S. Parker and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and their heirs and assigns for ever; but, in default of such issue,

7 Term R.

then

then to go to his (the testator's) grandson T. Wilkinson, his heirs and assigns for ever. S. Parker entered on the estate upon the death of the testator, (Mary Parker being then dead), and died without ever having had any issue. And the question was, whether T. Wilkinson took any thing under the will?

Lord Kenyon.—We will send our certificate in this case; but I will now state the short ground on which my opinion is founded.

The only question is, whether, on the fair construction of the words of this will, the testator meant that the limitation over to T. Wilkinson, the plaintiff, should only take effect after an indefinite failure of issue in S. Parker, or on a failure of issue living at the time of the death of S. Parker; for, as soon as that intention is discovered, there is an end of the case. If personal property be so limited that, if it were an estate of inheritance, it would give an estate tail, the absolute interest vests in the first taker. But if the limitation be with a double aspect, to A. and to the issue of his body, if there be any fuch issue living at his death, if not, then over, it is a good limitation. It was so settled in Sabbarton v. Sabbarton, and a variety of other cases, some of which are not in print. Here the words of the will are, "to S. Parker and the heirs of his " body, and to their heirs and assigns for ever:" if those words stood uncontrolled by any thing subsequent in the will, the absolute interest would have vested in him; but other words are added, "but in default of se such issue, then after his decease to go to the testa-

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tor's grandson." There is a case in the books to shew, that then and when are adverbs of time. Then, at what time was the estate to go over to the testator's grandson? At the death of S. Parker, if he left no issue: there is nothing in the will to shew, that the testator intended that the limitation over should not take effect until future generations; but, on the contrary, there is sufficient to shew that he intended, that the estate should, in one event, vest in the grandson at the time of S. Parker's death; and that is within the time which the law allows in the case of executory devises. The rule respecting executory devises is extremely-well settled: and a limitation, by way of executory devise, is good, if it may take place after a life or lives in being, and within 21 years and the fraction of another year afterwards. As I before observed, this is a question of intention; and I am clearly of opinion, that the testator's intention was, that if S. Parker did not leave any issue at his death, the subsequent limitation should take effect.

The Court certified, that T. Wilkinson was entitled, under the will of E. Parker, to the absolute and entire interest in the leasehold premises above mentioned.

\$ 29. Mr. Fearne says, that a diversity has in some cases been contended for, between a limitation of a term by such words as, in the case of a real estate, would give an express estate tail; and a limitation of he same by such words as, in the case of a real estate, would only give an estate tail by implication, upon this principle, that where the words of a will, if used with regard to inheritance, would give an express estate tail, there the same words ap-

No Distinction between Words giving an express Estate Tail or by Implication.

1 P.Wm. 433. 3 —— 268. plied to a term, will pass the whole interest in that term: but that, where the words of the will, if applied to the freehold, would give an estate tail by implication only, there they will not enure to give the whole interest in that term. And, consequently, that where a term is limited to one, and if he die without issue, remainder over, this limitation will not vest the whole term in him, as a limitation to the heirs of his body, or to his issue, would do; but are always to be understood restrictively, and to relate only to his dying without issue living at his death, and, therefore, give him the term only during his life.

§ 30. The ground of the distinction is this; in re-

spect to an inheritance, the words, dying without issue, are taken to mean an indefinite failure of issue, in order to create an estate tail in favour of the issue, who are 1P.Wm.667. capable of taking an inheritance; but, with respect to a term, such a construction cannot benefit the issue, because a term cannot descend to them. In some instances, the Court seems to have countenanced a distinction of this fort; but in all those cases, there were fome circumstances in the will, which the Court obferved, confined the generality of the expression, dying without issue, to dying without issue then living. it has been frequently determined, that the limitation of a term over, after a dying without issue, even in fuch cases where the limitation could only have given an estate tail by implication in a real estate, is to be taken in the legal extent of the expression; and, therefore, the limitation over being in that sense too remote, is utterly void.,

Vide Fearne Ex. Dev. 233.

§ 31. William

§ 31. It is the same thing, whether the devise of a term be to one for life expressly, and if he die without issue, remainder over, or to one indefinitely, and if he die without issue, remainder over. Thus, in the case of Love v. Windham, the devise was to one for life Ante. expressly, and if he die without issue, remainder over, and yet the remainder was held void.

Nor between a Devise for Life and an indefinite Devile.

§ 32. William Clare, possessed of a long term, de-Clare v. vised it to trustees, in trust for his son Themas Clare, Forrest R.21. for so many years of the term as he should live, and after his death, in trust for the issue male of his son Thomas lawfully begotten, for so many years of the faid unexpired term as such issue male should live; and when the issue male of his said son Thomas should happen to be extinct, then in trust for his second son in the same manner. The question was, whether the limitation over to William the second son, after failure of issue male of Thomas, was not void.

Lord Talbot held, that the subsequent limitation to the issue of Thomas, did not enlarge the express estate for life given to him: but he also held, that the remainder over upon the extinction of issue male, which was equivalent to a dying without issue, when taken as an inde- Vide Fearne finite failure of issue, was void.

Ex. Dev. 275.

§ 33. An executory devise of a term for life to a person in ese, to take place upon a dying without issue of another, may be good; because the future limitation being only for the life of a person in ese, it must neceffarily take place during that life, or not at all: and, Vol. VI. Kk. therefore,

An Executory Devise for Life after a general Failure of Issue, is good.

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xix. § 33, 34.

therefore, the failure of issue is, in that case, confined to the compass of a life in being.

Oakes v. Chalfont, Pollex. 38. \$ 34. William Wilson, possessed of a term, assigned the same to trustees, in trust that he should receive the profits during his life, and, after his death, for Mary his wife during her life, and after her death, that John Oates should receive a moiety of the profits during his life, and, after his decease, his child or children during his, her, and their lives; and for want of such issue, or after the decease of the child or children of Edward Oakes, to permit Sarah Chalfont to receive the profits during her life. The question was, whether the limitation to Sarah Chalfont was good. And the Lord Keeper declared that the trust, being expressly limited for life, the same did not tend to a perpetuity, and, therefore, was good.

3 Atk. 449. Doe v. Lyde, 1 Term R. 593.

TITLE

TITLE XXXVIII.

DEVISE.

CHAP. XX.

Other Matters relating to Executory Devises.

- § 1. Where one Limitation is Executory, all the subsequent ones are so likewise.
 - 5. A preceding Executory Limitation may be uncertain, when a subsequent one may be certain.
- 11. A preceding Executory Limitation is not a Condition precedent.
- 17. Limitations over after an Executory Devise of the whole Interest sometimes good.
- 22 Distinction between the Cases where a subsequent Limitation may become good, and where not.
- 24. A Limitation which was originally a Contingent Re-

mainder may take Effect at an Executory Devise.

- 29. Distinction between Executory Devises per verba de presenti, and, per verba de futuro.
- 34. The Freehold descends in the mean Time to the Heir.
- 37. And also the intermediate Pro-
- 40. A Devise of the Residue will pass such Profits.
- 43. Executory Interests are devisable.
- 47. And affignable.
- 50. May be paffed by Fine.
- 51. Descendible and transmissible to Heirs and Executors.
- 54. The Court of Chancery will prevent Waste.
- 55. Of Trusts of Accumulation,

Section 1.

R. FEARNE lays it down, that where one limi- Where one tation of a devise is taken to be executory, all subsequent limitations must likewise be so taken. Thus Sérjeant Pemberton says, the several limitations of a devise of one and the same thing shall never be made to operate several ways, viz. some by way of executory devise, and others by way of remainder. Kk2

Limitation is Executory all the subsequent ones are fo likewise. Ex Dev. 334 Carth. 310.

court

court seemed to admit the distinction; but it may be proper to consider upon what reasons it is grounded.

- § 2. With respect to the devise of a term it is clear, that if there be twenty limitations of it after a devise to one for life, &c., every one of the twenty will be equally executory as the first of them; because all are equally limitations of a term, after a disposition thereof for life, which cannot hold otherwise than by way of executory devise. Therefore the question can only arise in regard to the devise of a freehold: and then we are to consider, that every executory devise is either the limitation of an estate, after the see has been already disposed of, or else is a freehold to commence in future, without any preceding freehold to support it. In the first case it is evident that every limitation, subsequent to the first executory devise, must also be executory; because it is also a limitation of an estate after the see has been already disposed of. In the latter case, the first executory limitation, being the first freehold limited by the will, no freehold can vest in possession under that will, before the time appointed for fuch limitation to take effect; if it could, then would that supposed limitation be really not executory; because it would in that case be supported by a preceding freehold.
- Tit. 16. c. 1. 1. 39.
- § 3. It is true that, in relation to contingent remainders, a subsequent remainder may vest in interest before a preceding contingent remainder, but that is only where some preceding freehold vests in possession in the mean time; but no subsequent remainder can first

first vest in possession, and afterwards a preceding estate take place: for, wherever a subsequent limitation vests in possession, before a preceding contingent one can arise and vest, such preceding one is utterly precluded and destroyed. But, in the case now under consideration, there is no freehold limited to vest immediately in possession; we cannot make the preceding estate and the remainder change places, and the latter come into possession before the former; this would be absurd, and directly contrary to the order of limitations. If this cannot be done, then no one of the subsequent limitations can take place before the the time limited for the first; they are all, therefore, equally freeholds to commence in futuro, without any present limitation, or estate of freehold to support them; and consequently they are all equally executory, till the time comes for the first estate to vest or fail; then all the limitations to persons in esse and ascertained may vest, and no longer continue executory.

- § 4. Thus, in the case of Gore v. Gore it was held, Antech 18. that, till the event of Thomas Gore's having a son should be decided one way or the other, by the birth of such son, or by Thomas Gore's death without one, the devise to his son was executory; being a freehold limited to commence in futuro.
- § 5. A preceding executory limitation may, however, be uncertain and contingent; when a subsequent limitation, though it be to take effect in suture, may not be uncertain or conditional (otherwise than in respect of the possibility of its expiration before the former vests

A preceding Executory Limitation may be uncertain, when a subsequent one may be certain. or fails); but may be so limited as to take effect either in default of the preceding limitation taking effect at all, or by way of remainder after it, if that should take effect. In either of those cases, it must vest at the time appointed for the preceding limitation to vest; for; should the preceding limitation fail of taking effect, the subsequent one will then vest in possession: should the preceding take effect, the subsequent one will at the same time vest in interest as a remainder upon the preceding one, and then become liable to the same modes of destruction, to which other remainders of the same kind are subject.

Brownsword v. Edwards, 2 Ves. 243. § 6. A person devised to trustees and their heirs, to receive the rents and profits, till J. B. should attain twenty-one; and if he should live to attain the said age of twenty-one or have issue, then to the said J. B. and the heirs of his body. But if the said J. B. should happen to die before the age of twenty-one, and without issue, then over. Lord Hardwicke, considering the word and as used for or, and the condition as disjunctive instead of copulative, decreed that the remainder over should take effect, upon the apparent intent of the testator, that it should take place either in default of J. B.'s attaining twenty one, or on his dying without issue.

Southby v. Stonehouse, 2 Ves. 610.

§ 7. A married woman devised (in pursuance of a power) the profits of her estate to her husband for his natural life; and, after the death of her husband she bequeathed the said estate to her dear children, if she should leave any to survive her; but, in case she should

should leave no such child or children, nor the issue of such child or children, and after the decease of her dear husband, then she gave and bequeathed the said estates to her friend J. H. making him thereby her sole heir of her last will and testament, in default of issue lest by her, and after the death of her husband. At the time of making this will, the testatrix was with child, and soon after had a daughter, and died.

Lord Hardwicke held, that the child took an estate tail, and not a see; and that the devise over to J. H. was a vested remainder, and not a limitation to take effect only on the event of the testatrix's dying without leaving any child, or the issue of any living at her decease. He said the testatrix had only expressed the double contingency, which there is in the case of every limitation in remainder after an estate tail, viz. there being no issue at all, or such issue dying without issue.

§ 8. A distinction must, however, be made between cases of this nature, and the case where a testator devised to B. his son and heir; and, if he died before twenty-one and without issue of his body then living, the remainder over, &c. B. survived the twenty-one years and then sold the lands and died; and it was held that he had a see-simple immediately: for the estate tail was limited to arise upon a contingency subsequent.

Collinson v. Wright,
I Sid. 148.

\$ 9. And also, where a person devised lands to his wife till his son came of age; and then that his son K k 4

1 Ab. Eq. 188. pl. 8.

should have the land to him and his heirs; and, if he died without issue before his said age, then to his daughter and her heirs. This was held to be a good executory devise to the daughter, if the contingency happened; and if he lived to twenty-one, though he after died without issue, or left issue though he died before twenty-one, yet the daughter was to have the land, because he was to die without issue and before twenty-one, or else the daughter could not take.

Ante f. 6.

§ 10. It is observable that, in the two last cases, the devise to the son was in see, so as not to admit a regular remainder after it. Whereas, in that of Brownsword v. Edwards, the first devise was in tail, upon which Lord Hardwicke laid so much stress as to say, that had the devise been to B. and his heirs, the construction he gave could not, he believed, be made; for, where there was such a contingent limitation, he did not know that the court had changed the word heirs into heirs of the body to make it so throughout.

A preceding Executory
Limitation is not a Condition precedent.
Tit. 16. c. 1. f. 65.
Scatterwood v. Edge.

\$11. It has been observed in a former title, that, where a devise is made upon a condition annexed to a preceding estate, that is, where it is made after a preceding executory or contingent limitation, or is limited to take essect on a condition annexed to any preceding estate; if that preceding limitation or contingent estate never should arise or take essect, the remainder over will nevertheless take place; the first estate being considered only as a preceding limitation, and not as a preceding condition, to give essect to the subsequent limitation.

§ 12. A person

§ 12. A person devised a term for years to his wife for life, and after her death to the child she was then ensient with; and if such child died before it came to twenty-one, then he devised one-third part of the same term to his wife, her executors, administrators and assigns, and the other two-thirds to other persons. One of the questions was, whether the devise to the wife of one-third part of the term was good, because it happened she was not ensient at all, and so the contingency upon which the devise to her was to take place never happened; and Lord Harcourt held it was good.

lones v. Westcombe, 1 Ab. Eq.

§ 13. A case arose in the King's Bench upon the Andrews v. same will; and Lord Chief Justice Lee delivered the I Ves. 421. opinion of the court, "That the limitation over was " good; that the devise to the infant being ineffectual was out of the case, and the law the same whether " the devise immediately preceding the limitation over, " was originally void, or became so by non-existence or non-entity of the person: for that since the law s allows fuch limitation over, it allows the waiting for it; that it was one of those executory limita-"tions, which depend on some contingency, on the failure of a preceding limitation, none of which take in all the ways of failing, but still it was the " fame thing."

Fulham, cited

§ 14. This resolution was upon the leasehold part of the estates, which passed by the will; but afterwards the same point, in regard to the freehold lands, came before the C. B.; which court was of opinion,

Roe v. Welkett, cited 1 Vef 421. 1 Wilf. 107. 3 Burr. 1624.

that

that the event of no child's being born was a cafus omissus, concerning which no direction was given by the will; that the rule was, that an heir at law is not to be disinherited but by express words or necessary implication; so that upon that ground the devise over could not take effect: that Andrews v. Fulham, being a determination on the leasehold, was distinguishable; that the plaintiff there had assented to the devise over, and so was concluded; and that there was a difference of construction between the leasehold and freehold, because of the favour shewn to the heir at law.

Gulliver v. Wickett, 4 Will. 105.

§ 15. Upon this another ejectment was brought in B. R., when Lee Ch. J. delivered the opinion of the court, that the devise over was to be considered as a limitation subsequent; the first as a preceding limitation (not a condition) which, whatever way it was laid out of the case, the other took effect. That the true construction of the will was, that there was a good devise to the wife for life, with a contingent remainder to the child in fee, with a devise over, which they held a good executory devise, as it was to commence within twenty-one years after a life in being; and if the contingency of a child never happened, then the last remainder was to take effect upon the death of the wife; and the number of contingencies was not material, if they were all to happen within a life in being, or a reasonable time afterwards.

Avelyn v. Ward, 1. Vel. 420.

§ 16. Serjeant Urling devised his real estate to his brother Goddard Urling and his heirs, on this express condition, that within three months after his decease he should execute, and deliver to his trustee, a general release of all demands, which he might claim on his estate for what cause soever. But if his brother should neglect to give such release, the said devise to him should be null and void to all intents; and in such case he devised it to Richard Ward his heirs and assigns for ever. Goddard Urling died in the lifetime of the testator.

It was decreed that the devise over should take place; and though a distinction was contended for between the case of a remainder over, after an executory particular estate only, and those cases wherein an executory devise was introduced after a disposition of the whole see, yet Lord *Hardwicke* exploded that distinction, as he did not find (he said) any authority to warrant it.

S 17. It feems now to be fettled, that whatever number of limitations there may be, after the first executory devise of the whole interest; any one of them, which is so limited that it must take effect (if at all) within twenty-one years after the period of a life in being, may be good in event; if no one of the preceding executory limitations, which would carry the whole interest, happens to vest. But when once any preceding executory limitation, which carries the whole interest, happens to take place, that instant all the subsequent limitations become void, and the whole interest is then become vested.

Limitations over, after an Executory Devise of the wholeInterest, sometimes good. Massenburgh v. Ash, 1 Vern. 234. 304.

§ 18. A term for years was assigned to trustees, in trust for husband and wife, during their lives and the life of the longer liver of them; and if there should happen to be iffue male of their bodies, living at the time of the decease of the survivor of them, then in trust that the eldest son of that marriage should be maintained out of the rents and profits until he attained his age of 21 years, and then the whole term to be affigned to him; and in case he should die before the age of 21 years, then in like manner to the second, third, and every other son of that marriage. case there should be no such issue living at the time of the decease of the survivor of the husband and wife, or in case there should be such issue, and they should all die before any of them attained the age of 21 years, then the term was limited to Sir William Maffenburg.

The husband and wife died, leaving a son, who died while an infant.

Lord Keeper North said that, as the rules of Chancery, respecting the limitations of trusts of terms for years, were the same with those by which executory devises of terms for years were governed at law, he would have the opinion of the judges on this point.

The Judges of the Court of Common Pleas having unanimously given their opinion, that the contingent limitation over to Sir William Massenburgh was good, because it must happen within the space of 21 years after a life in being: the Lord Keeper decreed accordingly.

§ 19. Alice Higgins demised the premises, being a term for 999 years to trustees, in trust for herself for IP.Wms.98. life; remainder to H. Higgins her son, and Mary his intended wife; and after their several deceases, in trust for the eldest son of the said H. Higgins by the said Mary Dowler, in tail; and, for default of issue of fuch first begotten son, for all and every the other son and fons of the faid Henry Higgins by the faid Mary Dowler; and, for default of such issue male of the faid Henry Higgins by the faid Mary Dowler, then in trust for all and every the daughters. There never was a fon of the faid marriage, but there was a daughter; and, the husband and wife being both dead, itwas objected, that the limitation of the trust to the daughter was void, it being after a limitation in tail to the fons, which, in case of a term, was not to be allowed.

Higgins v. Dowler, Vide Salk. 156.

Lord Chancellor Cowper said, there was a diversity where the limitation in tail had vested: for there, it must be admitted, the remainder over would be void. But, as in this case there never was a son, the remainder to the daughter was good: and it was no more than the limitation of the trust of a term two ways, viz. if there be a son by the marriage, then the limitation. is to that son. But, if there be no son of the marrirge, but a daughter, then to that daughter; and this was not too remote a contingency, because confined to a life in being.

§ 20. Dorothy Lennard, being possessed of lands in the county of Surry for the residue of a term of 500 years, devised them to a trustee, in trust to permit her

Stanley v. Leigh, 2 P. Wms. 636.

nephew Francis Leigh, and his assigns, to receive all the rents and profits of the premises for so long as he should live, and, after his decease, to the use of his sirst son and the heirs male of his body, and in default thereof, to the use of his second and other sons in the same manner; and, in default of such issue, to the use of the daughter and daughters of Francis Leigh; or, in case of their death before the age of 21, or marriage, then to the use of Edward Stanley for the then residue of the term.

Francis Leigh died without issue; and the question was, Whether the limitation of the term to Edward Stanley was good?

Sir Joseph Jekyll M. R. said, he did not think this

dimitation tended to a perpetuity. Such a limitation of an estate in see-simple would have been good; and yet that would have gone farther towards a perpetuity: for the sons, though not in esse, must all have taken one after another; and none of them could have barred the remainder but by a recovery, which requires time: Whereas, in this case, the sirst son would, upon his birth, have had the whole residue of the term, subject to the precedent interest, vested in him; and it could never have gone over to any remainder, if he had died under age; but his executors or administrators would have had it, who could have aliened of assigned it immediately.

Tit. 8, c. 2. f. 18.

It was decreed that the limitation over was good.

. § 21. In the case of Stephens v. Stephens, the cer- Ante. tificate of the Judges, after stating that the devise of the first son of Mary Stephens, who should attain the age of 21 years, was good, goes on in these words: "The consequence whereof is, that all the subsequent " limitations will be good. The estate will vest in "Thomas, the fon now living, when he shall attain " the age of 21 years, in tail male, according to the " clause directing the order of succession between the " fons to be born. If Thomas, the fon now living, " should happen to die before his age of 21 years, and " the testator's daughter Dame Mary Stephens should " have any other son by Sir Thomas Stephens, then the estate will go over to him, when he shall attain his " age of 21 years, in like manner as it would have " vested in Thomas. If Thomas the son should die " before the age of 21 years, and Dame Mary should " have no other fon by Sir Thomas Stephens, who " should attain his age of 21 years, then his estate " will go over to Sarah the daughter, and all the " other daughters of the faid Dame Mary by Sir Thomas, as tenants in common in tail, with remainder over to Richard Stephens the testator's brother in 66 fee. But, in case Thomas the son should die before " the age of 21, and Sarah the daughter should then be dead without issue, and there should be no other " fon of Dame Mary, who should attain the age of 21 years, or any other daughter hereafter, born of their bodies, then the estate will go to the said Sir Richard Stephens, by virtue of the last remainder to him in fee."

Distinction
between the
Cases, where
a subsequent
Limitation
may become
good, and
where not.
Fearne Ex
Dev. 491.

§ 22. In the foregoing cases it is observable, that wherever a preceding executory limitation carried the whole interest, a subsequent limitation was not confidered as a limitation upon the preceding, and to take effect after it, but as an alternative substituted in its room, and to take effect only in case the preceding one should fail, and never take effect at all: and, where a preceding executory limitation did not carry the whole interest, a subsequent one was considered either as becoming vested in interest as a remainder expectant on the preceding estate, as soon as that took effect, or else as taking effect in possession at the time limited for the preceding estate to vest, in case that preceding one failed of taking effect: so that, in either case it follows, that, if the preceding limitation was not too remote in its creation, the subsequent one could not be so, being to take effect at the time limited for the first, or else not at all. It was therefore necessary to distinguish between instances of this kind, and those cases wherein, either the preceding limitation is not executory but vested, or there is no preceding limitation at all: for, in either of such cases, the future limitation cannot be merely an alternative, but is absolutely limited to take effect either after the expiration of the preceding limitation; or else, if there be no preceding limitation, upon the happening of some And, therefore, if the expiration of that preceding limitation be of too remote a nature, the future limitation is void in its creation, and no subsequent accident can make it good; because it is not, as in the former cases, limited to take effect, or to fail upon the event of a contingency, which must be determined

mined one way or other within the period allowed by law for the vesting of an executory devise, but is limited absolutely to take effect on an event which may not happen within such a period.

§ 23. Thus, although in the case of a devise of Sabbarton v. lands in fee to the first son of A., who shall attain the Forrest 245. age of 21, and in default of such issue remainder to B in fee, such a limitation would fail or take effect, according as the first limitation should vest or not. Yet, if a devise be to the heirs male of the body of C., and in default of such issue, remainder to D. in tail, here, if we suppose the first limitation void, the subsequent one is an absolute future limitation, to take effect after a dying without issue; and, therefore, though no heirs male of the body of G. should ever exist, such event will not make good the limitation to D., which was too remote in its creation, and could not be considered, as in the former case, merely as an alterna- 2 Bur. 878. tive to a preceding limitation, and which must vest at the time limited for that preceding one to vest, or else not at all.

§ 24. It has been stated that, whenever a contingent A Limitalimitation is preceded by a freehold capable of supporting it, it is construed a contingent remainder, and not an executory devise. But it is possible, that the freehold so limited may, by a subsequent accident, become incapable of ever taking effect at all; as, by the death of the first device in the testator's lifetime, in which case, the subsequent limitation, if the contingency has not then happened, will be in the same condition at Vol. VI. Ll the

was originally a contingent Kemainger, may take effect as an executory Devite. Fearne Ex. Dev. 492.

the testator's death, that is, at the time when the will is to take essect, as if it had been limited without any preceding freehold. Now, in this case it has been held, that, where such subsequent limitation could not vest at the testator's death, it should enure as an executory devise, rather than fail for want of that preceding freehold, which had never taken essect.

Hopkins v. Hopkins, Forrest 44.

§ 25. Mr. Hopkins devised his real estate to trustees and their heirs, to the use of them and their heirs, in trust for Samuel Hopkins for life; and, from and after his decease, in trust for the first and every other son of the said Samuel, and the heirs male of the body of every such son; and for want of such issue, in case John Hopkins (the father of Samuel Hopkins) should have any other son or sons of his body, then in trust for all and every fuch fon and fons respectively and successively, for their respective lives, with the like remainders to their feveral fons, with the like remainders to the heirs male of the body of every such son, as before limited to the issue male of the said Samuel Hopkins; and for want of such issue, in trust for the first and every other son of the body of Sarab, (the said John Hopkins's eldest daughter) lawfully to be begotten, with like remainders to the fons of John Hopkins's other daughters; and for want of such issue, then in trust for the first and every other son of his cousin Ann Dare, lawfully to be begotten, with like remainders to the heirs male of the body of every fuch son of the said Ann Dare; and for default of such issue, then in trust for his own right heirs for ever.

Samuel Hopkins died in the testator's lifetime, withbut issue; and, some time after, the testator died. Nor had John Hopkins any other son, nor were any of the other remainder-men in esse at the testator's death, except a son of Ann Dare's.

Lord Talbot.—" Two questions have been made upon this will. The first is, whether this limitation to the first and every other son of John Hopkins can now take effect as an executory devise? Or, whe-" ther it shall be taken as a contingent remainder, " and, consequently, void for want of a particular estate to support it by reason of Samuel's death in " the testator's lifetime; and that John Hopkins had no " fon in esse at the testator's death, when the remain-" der might vest? As to the first, I think it impossi fible to cite any authorities in point; none have been "cited. It seems to be allowed, that if things had " stood as they did at the time of making the will, the limitation in question would have been a remainder, by reason of Samuel's estate, which would have supported it. So is the case of Puresoy v. Roec gers: and limitations of this kind are never con- s. 7. to be executory devises, but where they So, on the other cannot take effect as remainders. hand, it is likewise clear, that, had there been no fuch limitations to Samuel and his fons, the limitation must have been a good executory devise, there being no antecedent estate to support it; and, confequently, not able to enure as a remainder: so that it must be the intervening accident of Samuel's death in the testator's lifetime, upon which this Lla " point

Ante ch. 18, f. 7.

opint must depend. And, as to that, I am of opi-

nion, that the time of making the will is principally " to be regarded, in respect to the testator's intent. " "And if, in this case, we consider it as an executory " devise, the intent will be served in case John Hop's " kins has a second son: but, if it is taken as a re-" mainder, the intent plainly appearing that a fecond " son of John Hopkins should take, is quite destroyed, "there being no precedent estate to support it as a re-" mainder. The very being of executory devises ""-shews a strong inclination, both in courts of law " and of equity, to support the testator's intent as far as possible: and, though they be not of antient "date, yet they are of the same nature with springing uses, which are as old as uses themselves. I can " see no difference between this case and the others of " a like nature, that have been adjudged: and if such " a construction may be made consistently with the " rules of law, and agreeable to the testator's intent, " it would be very hard not to suffer it to prevail. In " Pay's case, had the testator lived to Michaelmas, the limitation had been a remainder. And if a remainder in its first creation does, by any subsequent " accident, become an executory devise, why should it not be good here; upon the authority of that case, where, by the testator's death before Michaelee mas, what would otherwise have been a remainder, was held to be good by way of executory devise. "I think that, in this case, the limitation would operate as an executory devise, if it was of a legal " estate'; and, therefore, shall do so as a trust, the rules being the same."

Ante ch. 18. f. 2.

§ 26. Soon after the above decree was made, John 1 Ves. 269. Hopkins had issue William Hopkins a second son, upon which it was held, that the executory devise having thereby once vested, the subsequent limitations thereupon became contingent remainders. And though fuch son afterwards died before the subsequent limitations vested, yet were they not destroyed; because it was held that the inheritance vested in the trustees was as sufficient to support them, as if there had been estates limited for that particular purpose.

1 Atk. 581.

§ 27. In the case of Stephens v. Stephens, it was Antech. 17. held, that till the estate became vested in some one of his grandsons, who attained 21, the limitations over to the daughters of his daughters must have been executory devises. But, as soon as ever the estate should become vested in a son, then those subsequent limitations must of course take effect, as vested remainders upon the preceding estate tail in such son.

§ 28. But when a preceding freehold has once vested, Mr. Fearne says, no subsequent accident will make a contingent remainder enure as an executory devise: this being a direct consequence of the rule above stated, that, wherever a devise may be construed a contingent remainder, it shall never be considered as an executory devise.

Brownsword v. Edwards. Ante.

Ex. Dev.

§ 29. It has been held that, where an executory devise is limited per verba de præsenti, that is, where the devisee is mentioned as a person in present existence, and the commencement of the estate devised is not expressly deferred to a future period, there the devisee Fearne Ex.

Distinction between executory Deviles per verba de præsenti, : and per verba de futuro. Dey. 503.

must

518

must be a person capable at the death of the devisor; otherwise the devise will be void. As, if one devise immediately to the heir of J.S., and J.S. is living at the death of the testator, it is said the devise shall not be construed an executory devise, and, therefore, must be vold; but that, if it were to the heir of J. S. after the death of J. S., that would be clearly good as an

exceptory devise, because a suture time is mentioned.

Id. 229.

1 Balk. 226.

§ 30. So it has been said, that a devise to the first fon of A., having none at the time, is void: but, if it were to the first son of A., when he shall have one, it T. Raym. 83. will be good. Though Lord Chief Justice Bridgman said, that a devise to J. S. for 15 years, remainder to the right heirs of J. D., is not good: but that a devise to one for 15 years, remainder to the first son of J.D., is good; because the devisor takes notice that A. has no son, and intends a future act.

Apte ch. 18. Fearne Ex. Dev. 504.

§ 31. It has been alread stated, that a devise to an infant in ventre matris, is good: and in the case of Guliver v. Wickett, the Court held, that the limitation to the child, of which the wife was supposed to be ensient, if there had been no devise to the wife for life, being in suturo, would have been a good executory devise,

Tit. 12. ç. 1. T 12 Doe v. Carleton, 1 Wilf. 225. Harris y. Barnes, 4 Bur. 2157.

§ 32. In the case of Chapman v. Blisset, Lord Talbox held, that the devise to the unborn children of the testator's grandson, (though made per verba de præsenti), should take effect as an executory devise; the intention being clearly future,

- § 33. Mr. Fearne concludes his observations on this Ex. Dev. 510. subject by saying, that, whatever force is to be allowed to the distinction between executory limitations per verba de præsenti, and per verba de futuro, it can only affect those cases where there is not the least circumstance, from which to collect the testator's contemplation or intention of any thing else, than an immediate devise to take effect in præsenti.
- § 34. Where there is an executory devise of a real estate, and the freehold is not in the mean time disposed of, the freehold and inheritance descend to the testator's heir at law.

The Freehold descends, in the meantime, to the Heir.

§ 35. Thus, in Pay's case, which has been already stated, it was held that the freehold and fee-simple descended to the heir at law. So, in Clarke v. Smith, Id. s. 3. the estate was held to have descended to the heir at law, and continued in him for fix months.

Antc ch. 18.

§ 36. In the case of Gore and Gore it was held, that the freehold descended to the heir at law, till Thomas Gere had a son.

Ante ch. 18. 1. 14. 2 P.Wms.65. Hayward v. Stilling fleet, 1 Atk. 422.

§ 37. Where there is a preceding estate limited, with an executory devise over of the real estate, the intermediate profits, between the determination of the first estate and the vesting of the limitation ever, will go to the heir at law, if not otherwise disposed of.

And also the intermediate Profits.

§ 38. Thus, in the case of Hopkins v. Hopkins, it Antes. 25. was decreed that, till John Hopkins had a son, the rents

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and

and profits should go to the heir at law of the tellator; and asterwards a son being born to John Hopkins, upon the death of that son, it was decreed, that the rents and profits should belong to the heir, till some other person should become entitled, under the limitations in the will,

Bullock v. Stones, a Vel. 521, § 39. A testator devised his real estate to trustees, and willed that the first son of John Stones, when he came to 21, should have it, and his heirs for every and that he should be well educated. John Stones had no son when the testator died.

Lord Hardwicke said, this was a good executory devise to the first son of John Stones, when he attained 21. And, as to the rents and profits in the mean time, where there is an executory devise, whether of a legal or a trust estate, the rents and profits go to the heir at law; because the legal estate in the one case, or the trust in the other, descends in the mean time to the heir at law. But this intermediate interest, or benefit arising to the heir at law, would determine when John Stones had a son; for that son's education must come out of the rents and profits.

A Devile of the Relidue will pale luch Profits.

\$ 40. But a devise of all the rest and residue of the real estate will pass, as well the profits from the testator's death to the time of the estate's vesting, as those from the determination of the first estate, to the vesting of a subsequent one.

§ 41. In the case of Stephens v. Stephens, it was decreed by the advice of the Judges, that the intermedrate profits passed to Sir Richard Stephens by force of the residuary devise, as an interest in the real estate not otherwise disposed of.

Ante ch. 17. f. 19.]

§ 42. A testator devised all the rest and residue of Rogers v. his real and personal estate, of what nature or kind foever, to fuch child or children as his daughter should have. It was held that the profits, from the testator's death to the birth of a child of his daughter, should pass under this devise.

Gibson, 1 Vcf. 484.

§ 43. It was formerly held, that contingent estates, Executory in lands of freehold, were not devisable; but it has been already stated, that the law is now altered in this' Ante c. 3. respect; and, therefore, executory estates, and possibilities accompanied with an interest, which would be descendible to the heir of the object of them, dying before the contingent event, on which the vesting of the estate depended, are devisable.

Interests are devisable. ſ. 17.

- § 44. Executory interests in terms for years, were always held to be devisable.
- \$ 45. A person, possessed of a term in lands, de- Veizy v. vised the same after his wife's death to his son. son made his will, and thereby gave the lands, devised to him by his father's will, to the plaintiffs; and died in his mother's lifetime. The Lord Keeper decreed the lands to be enjoyed by the plaintiffs, according to the will of the son.

Pinwell,

522

Wind v. Jekyll, 1 P.Wm 572. § 46. A. devised a term for years to B. for life, remainder to C. C. in the lifetime of B. devised this remainder. Decreed that the devise was good, and amounted to C's. declaring by his will, that his executor should stand possessed of the term in trust for the devisee.

 And affignable. § 47. At common law, a possibility was held not to be assignable, although in certain cases it might be released: but the Court of Chancery has, in many instances, determined, that a possibility of a term for years is assignable.

Thimpland v. Courteney.
2 Freem. 250.

§ 48. A testator, possessed of a term for 1000 years, devised it to B. for 50 years, if he should so long live, and, after her decease, to C., and died. C. assigned it to D. during the life of B.: and this assignment was held good.

§ 49. A testator devised his term to his wife for life,

remainder to his fon and daughter. The daughter and

Theobalds v. Duffey, 2 P. Wmss 608.

her husband, in the lifetime of the wife, assigned over their moiety; and, after the death of their brother, they assigned over the other moiety, the mother being still alive. This assignment was established in Chancery,

and also by the House of Lords.

Vide Wright v. Wright, 1 Vel. 409.

May be passed \$ 50. Executory interests, or possibilities in lands of by Fine. inheritance, may be passed at law by fine, by way of estoppel; of which, an account has been already given.

§ 51. An executory interest, whether in estates of inheritance, or terms for years, is descendible and sible to Heirs transmissible to the heirs or executors of the devisee, and Execuwhere such devisee dies before the contingency happens: and, if not disposed of before, will vest in such heirs or executors when the contingency happens.

Descendible and tranf

§ 52. A testator devised to A. and his heirs; and, if he died before 21, then to B. and his heirs. A. died before 21; but B. died before him. The question was, whether B.'s heirs should take? And the Court held clearly that, though B. died in the life of A., yet his heirs might well take under the executory devise: for that such a devise was not to be considered as a mere possibility, but as an interest, of the same nature as a contingent remainder, and, consequently, transmissible,

Gurnell v. Wood, 8 Vin. Ab. 112. Willes

§ 53. George Paynter devised freehold and copy- Goodright hold messuages to his son George Paynter, his heirs and assigns for ever: but if he should happen to die before he attained his age of 21 years, leaving no issue living at the time of his death, then he devised the said premises to his mother Catherine Paynter, her heirs and assigns for ever. After the decease of the testator, his mother Catherine Paynter died in the lifetime of George Paynter the son, who afterwards died under age, and without iffue.

v. Searle. 2 Will. Rep.

The question was, whether this executory devise descended to the heir of Catherine Paynter? And it was determined, that the lands vested in the heir at law of Catherine

Catherine Paynter, upon the happening of the contingency, viz., upon the decease of George Painter under age, and without issue.

The Court of Chancery will prevent Waste. Garth v. Cotton. Tit. 16. c. 7. f. 24. Of Trusts of Accumulation.

- § 54. In cases of contingent or executory interests, the Court of Chancery will interfere in behalf of the persons entitled to such interests, to prevent unreasonable waste being committed by the tenants in possession.
- § 55. It has been determined in a late case, that a testator may direct the rents and profits of an estate, whereof an executory devise is made, to accumulate till the time when such estate becomes vested. And that the dostrine of executory devises, as to the time when they must vest, was applicable to a trust of accumulation.

Thellusson v. Woodford, 4 Vef. Jun. 327.

§ 56. Peter Thelluffon being seised of very considerable real estates, and of a very large personal estate, and having three sons, Peter Isaac Thellusson, George Woodford Thellusson, and Charles Theliusson, devised all his manors, messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to trustees, their heirs and assigns for ever, upon the trusts therein-after mentioned; and, as to the tesidue of his personal estate, he gave and bequeathed the same to the same trustees, their executors, administrators, and affigns, upon trust that they should, as soon as conveniently might be after his decease, invest the same in the purchase of freehold estates of inheritance, upon the trusts therein-after mentioned. And he directed that his trustees, their heirs and assigns, should stand seised of the real estate devised

vised to them, and of the estates directed to be purchased, upon trust to receive the rents and profits of them during the natural lives of his fons, Peter Isaac Thellusson, George Woodford Thellusson, and Charles Theliusson, and his grandson John Thellusson, son of his faid fon Peter Isaac Thellusson, and of such other fons as his faid fon Peter Isaac Thellusson then had or might have, and of such issue as his said grandson John Thellusson might have, and of such issue as any other son of his said son Peter Isaas Thellusson might have, and of such sons as his said sons George Woodford Thellusson and Charles Thellusson might have, and of such issue as such sons might have, as should be living at the time of his decease, or born within due time afterwards, and during the natural lives and life of the furvivors and furvivor of the feveral persons aforesaid. The testator then directed, that his trustees should from time to time invest the money, to arise from such rents and profits, in such purchases as he had therein-before directed to be made with his personal estate. that they should from time to time collect, receive, lay out, and invest the rents and profits of those estates in the same manner. And he directed his trustees from time to time to cut such timber on the estate devised and to be purchased, as should be fit to be cut, and to sell the same; and to invest the money arising by such sales in such purchases, as were therein-before directed to be made: and he empowered the trustees to make leases and generally to act in the management of the trust estates, as if they were their own. then directed, that after the decease of the several persons, during whose lives the rents and profits of the estates

estates devised and to be purchased were directed to accumulate, an equal partition should be made by the trustees, of the estates; and that the whole thereof should be divided into three lots of equal value: and he then directed the manner in which those lots should be limited; which, as to the first of the lots, is expressed in the following words: "I do hereby direct "that the premises contained in one of such allot-" ments, shall be conveyed to the use of the eldest " male lineal descendant then living, (and who shall be entitled to the first choice of such allotments), " of my said son Peter Isaac Thellusson in tail male, with " rémainder to the second, third, fourth, and all and every other male lineal descendant or descendants then 44 living, who shall be incapable of taking as heir in tail " male of any of the persons to whom a prior estate is " hereby directed to be limited, of my faid son Peter " Isaac Thellusson, successively in tail male; with remainders, in equal moieties, to the eldest and every other " male lineal descendant or descendants then living " of my faid sons George Woodford Thellusson " Charles Thellusson, as tenants in common in tail " male, in the same manner as herein-before directed, with respect to the eldest and every other male lineal descendant or descendants of my said son Peter Yaac "Thellusson, with cross-remainders, between or among " such male lineal descendants as aforesaid of my said " sons George Woodford Thellusson and Charles Thel-" lusson, in tail male: or, in case there shall be but " one such male lineal descendant, then to such one " in tail male; with remainder to the use of them the " said Matthew Woodford, James Stanley, and Emct peror

Title XXXVIII. Devise. Ch. xx. \$ 56.

- peror John Alexander Woodford, their heirs and affigns for ever, upon the trusts, and to and for the
 - intents and purposes, hereinaster mentioned, ex-
 - rested, and declared of and concerning the same:"

He then directed the estates, included in one other of such allotments, to be conveyed to the use of the eldest male lineal descendant then living, (and who was to have the second choice of such allotments), of his son George Woodford Thellusson in tail male, with similar remainders to the second, third, fourth, and every other male lineal descendant or descendants of the said George Woodford Thellusson successively in tail male; and with similar remainders, in equal moieties,. to the eldest and every other male lineal descendant or descendants then living of the said Peter Isaac Thellusson and Charles Thellusson, as tenants in common in tail male, with similar cross-remainders; and with the ultimate remainder in the same manner, to the use of the trustees in fee-simple, upon the trusts therein-· after mentioned.

He then directed the estates, included in the remaining lot, to be conveyed to the use of the eldest male lineal descendant then living of his said son Charles Thellusson in tail male, with similar remainders to the second, third, fourth, and every other male lineal descendant or descendants then living of his said son Charles Thellusson, successively in tail male; with remainders in equal moieties to the eldest and every other male lineal descendant or descendants then living of the said Peter Isaac Thellusson and George Woodford Thellusson,

Thellusson, as tenants in common in tail male, with similar cross-remainders; and with the ultimate remainder in the same manner to the use of the trustees in sectionsle, upon the trusts therein-after mentioned.

And he directed that the trustees, their heirs or assigns, should stand and be seised of the estates by him devised and so to be purchased as aforesaid, upon failure of male lineal descendants of his said sons, Peter Isaac Thellusson, George Woodford Thellusson, and Charles Thellusson, as aforesaid, in trust to sell all the said estates, and to pay the money to arise from the said sales unto his Majesty, his heirs and successon, Kings and Queens of England, to be applied to the use of the sinking sund, in such manner as should be directed by act of Parliament.

The testator died in 1797, leaving his said three sons; the eldest of whom had then three sons and two daughters, the second two daughters, and the third one son; and the wife of the eldest son was then with child, and was soon after delivered of twin sons.

Some time after the decease of the said Peter Ibellusion, two suits were instituted in Chancery, respecting his will; one of them was upon a bill, filed by his widow and children against the acting trustees and executors of his will, and against the two sons of the said Peter Isaac Thellusson born after the testator's decease, and also against his Majesty's Attorney General, praying to have the trusts of the will declared xoid, and the real estate conveyed to the said Peter Isaac Thellusson,

Thellusson, as heir at law of the testator, and the personal estate divided among the plaintiffs, according to the statutes of distribution. The other of the suits was instituted upon a bill filed by the acting trustees and executors of the will of the said Peter Thellusson, against all the other persons, who were parties to the first suit, praying to have the trusts of the will established and carried into execution, and the necessary directions to be given for that purpose. Both the original cause, and the cross cause, came on before Lord Loughborough in Lincoln's Inn-Hall, in December 1798, affifted by the Master of the Rolls (Sir R. P. Arden); Mr. Justice Buller, and Mr. Justice Lawrence, and was argued at great length *. And on the 19th of Februs ary following, he pronounced his decree in both causes, and thereby dismissed the bill in the original cause, so far as it prayed that the limitations and dispositions, contained in the will of the said Peter Thellusson of and concerning his real estates, and the general residue of the personal estate, and the rents, issues, and profits of fuch estates, and concerning the estates directed to be purchased, and the rents and profits thereof, and the trusts thereof, might be declared void; and declared in the cross cause, that the will ought to be established, and the trusts of it performed and carried into execution; and declared the devises and limitations of the estates, contained in the will, to be good and valid in the law, and gave directions accordingly.

From this decree the three sons of Mr. Thellusson

[&]quot;Mr. Hargrave's argument has been published by himfelf, to which, the Reader is therefore referred.

the testator, appealed to the House of Lords: and on their behalf it was contended, that the trust, attempted to be created by Mr. Thellusson's will, being of the class of executory trusts created by will, must depend for its validity on its being instituted for those purposes, and limited within those boundaries, which the law prescribes for trusts of that description; but it was neither instituted for those purposes, nor limited within those boundaries.

1st, It was not instituted for the purposes which the law prescribes for those trusts. The nature of it was, to create an equitable eltate of inheritance commencing at a future time, without limiting an intermediate equitable estate commensurate with the interval. old law, limitations of this kind were illegal. the purpose of enabling parties to provide for those reasonable occasions of families, which could not be provided for except by allowing future estates of freehold to be limited without a limitation of fuch a previous intermediate estate, they were first admitted into wills: and afterwards, when uses were introduced, the uses raised by them were admitted among those, which, on account of the fairness and utility of their object, courts of equity thought binding on the consciences of trustees, and the performance of which they would, on that ground, compel by a subpœna. Thus, the circumstance of their being created for the meritorious purpose of providing for the reasonable occasions of families, was the ground on which the uses, raised by these limitations, were admitted among those which courts of equity would execute; and, of course, when they

they were not created for a purpose of that nature, the ground for the interference of courts of equity did not arise. In the present case, there was no such ground. Mr. Thellusson's will was morally vicious, as it was a contrivance of a parent to exclude every one of his children from the enjoyment, even of the produce of his property, during almost a century; and it was politically injurious, as, during the whole of that period, it made an immense property unproductive, both to individuals and the community at large; and, by the time when the accumulation shall end, it will have created a fund, the revenue of which would be greater than the civil list, and would therefore give its possessor the means of disturbing the whole economy of the country. The probable amount of the accumulated fund, in the events which had happened, was stated in the appellant's bill, and admitted in the answer, to be 19,000,000; and, in case any of the persons anfwering the description of heir male, when the period of suspense ended, should be a minor, and his minority should continue 10 years, it would increase the amount of that third to the sum of £ 10,802,373: so that, if the whole property should center in one person, and that person should have a minority of 10 years after the end of the period of suspense, (a circumstance by no means improbable, particularly as Mr. George Woodford Thellusson had been long married and had no fon), the whole accumulated fund would amount to £ 32,407,120.

2d,. The trust sas not confined within that boundary, which the law prescribes for trusts of this defeription,

fcription, even though it should be admitted that all the lives, during which the accumulation was to be carried on, were in existence at the time of Mr. Thellusson's decease, as one circumstance, which materially affected the period of suspense, and which entered into every case, in which the suspense of property had been held legal, did not enter into the present case.

In examining the cases decided on limitations of this kind, it would appear, that in every one of them, all the lives during which the suspense was directed to be carried on, were evidently the lives of persons immediately connected with, or immediately leading to, the person with whom under the trust first limited to take effect at the end of the suspense, the property was to vest. Thus, (to instance two cases in which the accumulation was supposed to have been further carried on), in that on Lady Dennison's will, Miss Midzley, during whose life the property might be in suspense, was the mother of the second son to whom the property was devised. And, in Long v. Blackall, the testator's posthumous son was immediate ancestor to the heir, in whom the property was directed to vest; but, in the present case, not one of the first lives had an immediate connection with, or immediately led to, the person benefited. In the sense here spoken of, the life of any stranger was equally connected with, and would equalty lead to "the respective male descendant of the " testator's son," as the lives assigned by him for the period of suspense. A material difference, therefore, iff a point considerably influencing the purpose and boundary

In the Register's Book, under the Title of Harrison v. Harrison, 21st July 1786.
7 Term R. 100.

boundary of the suspense, existed between the present and all the decided cases.

3d, The use made by Mr. Thellusson of the rule, allowing a suspense of property to be carried on for any number of lives in being, was a fraud on the rule. It was a maxim of law, which admitted of no exception, that nothing should be effected by indirect means, which could not be done in a direct manner. a possible suspense of property for 25 years was held to be void, in Sir John Lade's case; and, in the late case of Proctor the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Court of Common Pleas unanimously decided against the legality of a possible suspense of property for 24 Where property was suspended through the medium of lives, if the lives were those of persons connected with the ultimate owner, the persons, whose lives formed the period of suspense, would generally be the parents of the party ultimately benefited, and would not therefore be more than one or two lives at the utmost. Now, the probable duration of one or two such lives falls short of 21 years; but, if an unlimited number of lives were taken, they would reach a century. It was observable, that the probable duration of the lives assumed by Mr. Thellusson reached 70 Thus, therefore, if the rule were taken to extend to any number of lives, it would follow, that though, where a number of years directly constituted the term of suspense, property could not be prevented from vesting absolutely during 25 years, according to the determination in Sir John Lade's case, or during 24 years, according to the case of Proctor v. the Bi-

Lade v. Holford, Amb.
479. 3 Bur.
1416.
Proctor v.
(Ep.) Bath
and Wells,
2 H. Black.
358.

Stop

D. of Norfolk's Case, 3 Cha. Ca. 1. 2 Cha. Rep. 229. 2 Free. 72. 80. Pal. 223. and Ld. Nottingham's MSS. Rep. in Mr. Hargrave's P session. Cro. Jac. 459 1 Roll. Ab. 611. Pa'm. 48. 333.

hop of Bath and Wells; yet, by affigning for the period of suspense a number of lives, whose average duration would be equal to a given number of years, and thus indirectly making years, not lives, to coultitute the period of suspense, property might be suspended for a whole century; and the present would be cited, on future occasions, as a case in point for extending the period of suspense to 70 years. Mr. Thellusson's will was a fraud on the rule. When in the Duke of Norfolk's case, Lord Nottingham pronounced for the legality of an executory limitation, which kept the absolute ownership of a term for year in suspense for one whole life, and thereby extended the period allowed for the suspense of a term beyond what had been settled for it in the preceding case of Child v. Bayley, the possibility of the abuse of that extension of executory limitation was strongly pressed upon him; and he answered it in these remarkable words: "It has been urged at the Bar, where will " you stop, if you do not stop at Child v. Bayley's case? I answer, I will stop every where, where any inconvenience appears; no where before. It is not yet resolved what are the utmost bounds of limiting, a contingent fee upon a fee; and it is not necessary to declare, what are the utmost bounds to a springing trust of a term: whenever the bounds of reason or convenience are exceeded, the law will be quickly "known." The use made by Mr. Thellusson of the will is, both in a private and public view, unreasonable and inconvenient: and it is still more objectionable, as, by carrying on indirectly an accumulation for 70 years, which directly could not be carried on

for one-third of such a number of years, it was a fraud upon the rule itself. Thus, therefore, the time pointed at by Lord Nottingham was come; and it was necesfary that it should be known, that the rule was to be understood with this limitation, that whenever, from the number and quality of the lives chosen, it is evident that accumulation, and not a family purpose, was the object of the trust, the bounds of the reason and convenience of the rule were exceeded, and a fraud has been practised on the rule. It was objected to this conclusion, that any inquiry into the reasonableness, convenience, or fairness, of the use made of the rule, must lead to uncertainty, and to an exercise of discretion, which the Bench has always disclaimed: but this did not always follow. As much uncertainty, and as great an exercise of discretion, attends all decisions upon unconscionable contracts, as will attend decisions on the reasonableness, convenience, and fairness, of the use made of the rule in question. A contract might be objectionable for its unreasonableness and unfairness, without being objectionable on the ground of either, to such a degree as will induce a court of equity to rescind it: but still there is a degree, in which equity will interfere. "To set aside a conveyance, there must," as Lord Tburlow said in the case of Gwynne v. Heaton, " be an inequality so strong " and so complete, that it must be impossible to state it to a man of common sense, without producing an " exclamation of the inequality of it." So, in respect to the rule in question, it may be much abused, without a court's being justified in taking notice of the abuse: but, when the abuse is so strong, gross, and complete, M m 4

Rep. 1.

complete, that every man of common sense, to whom it was stated, must exclaim against it, the case supposed by Lord Nottingban was come, and equity would interfere to set it aside. That the rule had been strong ly, grossly, and completely abused in the present case, appeared not to be doubted.

ties which the law requires for trusts of this description, because the will attempts to protract the accumulation, during the lives of persons unborn at the time of the testator's decease; the testator having selected for that purpose the lives of such persons as might not be born, "till within due time after his decease;" and the persons thus described, could not be considered as persons actually born in his lifetime.

It was true, that, for some purposes, as, at the common law, to take by descent, and by the 10 and 11 W. 3. c. 16. to take by way of remainder, a child, who is in ventre sa mere, when the estate designed for him would devolve upon him if he were born, becomes entitled to it after he is born, and may then enter upon it, and divest it from the first taker. But his title to enter upon the estate, after his birth, was not a consequence of his supposed existence during the țime he was in ventre sa mere; but because, in the case of his taking by descent, the law at the instant of his birth invests him, though a posthumous child, with the character of heir, and, consequently, with all the rights of heirship; and because, when he claims by way of remainder, it is expressly provided by the 10 and 11 W. 3.

W. 3. c. 16. that the remainder shall vest in him upon his birth. If the law considered him to exist before his birth, the freehold, during the time of his being in ventre sa mere, would be vested in him in the eye of the law, and for the purposes of law; but that clearly was not the case. For, while he was in ventre sa mere, the law vested the freehold in the intermediate taker as heir, with every right and burthen of heirship; so that, after the birth of the nearer heir, he even retained the profits of the estates against him. That class, therefore, of lives, which was now the subject of observation, neither had nor could have an existence, either in fact or in law, in the time of Mr. T.helluffon. It followed that, by the admission of them into the term of suspense, the ground prescribed by law for the suspense of real property had been exceeded. No cases, the subject of which was real property, could be mentioned, in which a child in ventre sa mere had been held to be in existence for any purpose, except to limit the estate of the first devisee, or for the child himself, being the substituted devisee. In Bennett v. Amb. 708, Honeywood, Lord Bathurst declared, that the court had never construed a child in ventre sa mere to be actually born, at the time of the death of the testator, except in a case of devise to the children. Cases upon trusts of personal estates were not applicable to cases of the present description, arising on devises of real estates. For though rules of law, which require that an estate of freehold should be actually vested in some person, and, therefore, deny a legal existence to a child in ventre sa mere, even for his own benefit, were in nowise applicable to trusts of personal estate. The case

of Long v. Blackall, was the only case where the lawfulness of making a child in ventre sa mere a life, for the purpose of suspense, seemed to have been admitted: but that was a case of personal estate; now, as there was no law, which denied a legal existence to a child in ventre sa mere, where personal estate was concerned, there seemed, (especially where, as in Long v. Blackall, it gave effect to a provision made by a parent for a child), that there was strong ground to contend, that a child in ventre sa mere should, in the eye of the law, be supposed to exist for his own benefit, and that there should be a strong disposition in the courts to favour such an argument; but, in the present case, from the mere impossibility of supposing the freehold to be in the child while in ventre so mere, the argument was wholly inadmissible.

Admitting, however, that the lives in question were, tor some purposes of law, in existence in the lifetime of Mr. Thellusson, they certainly were not in existence for the use he made of them. In the cases, where the nine months have been mentioned, as a period allowed for protracting the suspense of property, it was generally added that the nine months were allowed, for the sake of the child intended to be benefited by the protraction; but a single instance could not be produced, where the nine months have been added for any other purpose; and perhaps an instance could not be brought, where the courts have had occasion to mention the nine months, without adding at the same time, that they were allowed merely for the benefit of the post-humous child. Then, how does the argument stand?

A poit-

A posshumous child is, in fact, unborn at the testator's decease; the law allows that, when after his birth he answers the character of heir taking by descent, and also that in some cases especially provided for by act of Parliament, his being in ventre sa mere, shall not deprive him of an estate, to which, if actually born at the time of its devolution, he would have been entitled. To argue from this, that, for all purposes, and particularly for the purposes which, as in the present case, operate to their prejudice, posthumous children should, in the supposition of law, be thought in existence, was unjustifiable.

5th, In other respects, the suspense evidently extended beyond the lives of persons in being at the testator's decease,

The classes of lives are described by the testator in the following words.

- (1st,) "During the natural lives of my sons Peter "Isaac Thellusson, George Woodford Thellusson, and "Charles Thellusson."
- (2d,) "And of my grandson John Thellusson, son of my said son Peter Isaac Thellusson."
- (3d,) "And of such other sons as my said son Peter"
 "Isaac Thellussen now has or may have."
- (4th,) "And of such issue as my grandson John Thel" lusson, son of my said son Peter Isaac Thellusson."

 (5th,) "And

- (5th,) "And of such issue, as any other sons of my said son Peter Isaac Thellusson may have."
- (6th,) "And of fuch fons as my said fons George "Woodford Thellusson and Charles Thellusson may have."
- (7th,) "And of such issue as such sons may have, "as shall be living at the time of my decease, or born in due time afterwards."

The question was, whether all the lives mentioned in this part of the will must necessarily have been in existence in the lifetime of the testator, or whether some of them might come into existence after his decease? On the last supposition, the devise was evidently too remote. Now, unless the words in the third, fourth, fifth, fixth, and feventh members of the sentence, were restrained by the qualifying words, " as " shall be living at the time of my decease, or born within due time afterwards," which were introduced int the end of the last member of the sentence, they manifestly extended to persons who might be born after Mr. Thellusson's decease. But the qualifying words could not, upon any principle, either of grammatical or legal construction, apply to them. In common sense, by every rule of grammar, and according to every principle and precedent of legal construction, words of relation are always exclusively referred to the next immediate antecedent; unless such exclusive reference embarrasses the sentence. But, in the present case, the sentence will not only not be embarrassed,

by confining the reference in the last member of the sentence to the next immediate antecedent in that sentence, but the sentence will be embarrassed in an extreme degree, by extending the reference to any prior member of it. It will not be embarrassed by confining the reference to the last antecedent in the last member of the sentence, for every member of the sentence will then be complete in itself; every member will have its word of relation, and an antecedent word, to which it explicitly refers: but it will be embarrassed in an extreme degree, by extending the reference to the prior members of the sentence. The restrictive words could not be applied to the first or second members of the fentence, without making them absolute nonsense: this alone leads to the conclusion, that they were not to be referred to the other members of the sentence, especially, as without them, and standing by itself, each of those members is perfect. If the restrictive words were referred to the third and fourth members of the sentence, one half of them must be omitted, or the reference would make them perfect nonsense: for the words, "born in due time after-" wards," could never be referred to the words " now " has;" as it is impossible that a testator, speaking of fons living when his will is made, can describe them as fons, who may be born in due time after his decease. The fifth member of the sentence was complete without the restrictive words: they did not, however, make nonsense of it; but then they left it altogether open to the force of the objection, as, by every rule of construction, the restrictive words, if they were applied to that member of the sentence, must be referred to the ".sons" mentioned

mentioned in it, and not to "the issue of the sons." It was impossible to suppose that a testator of the age of 64, at the time he made his will, should have had it in his contemplation to provide for the event of there being in existence, at the time of his decease, a son of an unborn grandson of his body: yet to that supposition the reference of the restrictive words to the word " issue," in the 5th member of the sentence, necesfarily led. Now, if they were referred to the word " fons," the word "iffue" was left unqualified: and then, among the lives, during which the period of suspense was to be carried on, all the issue of the some must be reckoned, whenever such issue should be born It was apprehended, that this was the only admissible construction; and that the legal boundary of suspense was therefore exceeded.

6th, Finally, the testator exceeded the bounds, prescribed by law for the suspense of property, in the
clause, by which he directed the property to be vested
in the funds, till purchases could be found. The
proper and only legal mode of declaring the trusts of
these investments, for the purpose probably in the contemplation of the testator, was, directing the dividends,
and the annual produce of them, to be applied to the
persons, and in the manner in which, if lands were
actually purchased and settled, conformably to the
trust, the rents of them would be applicable. This
the testator did not do; but, on the contrary, directed
the accumulation to be carried on till the purchases
were actually made: so that the beneficial ownership
of the property would be suspended, not only till all

the lives, during which it was directed to accumulate, should expire, but during such further period as might elapse, between the decease of the last surviving life, and the completion of the last purchase.

On the other fide it was contended, on behalf of his Majesty and the public, that the decree should be affirmed, for the following reasons.

1st, That the only question was, whether the testator had transgressed any of those rules of law or equity, which were fanctioned and established by decisions of courts of justice at the time when he made his will? That an executory devise was good which was to take effect in possession, after the determination of any number of lives of persons actually born, and after the death of a child in ventre sa mere, (allowing for the period of gestation of such child), was a rule which could not now be shaken, without shaking the foundation of the law. In the present case, on the determination of only nine lives, there would be a vested estate in possession; and the vesting, therefore, of the property in question, was not postponed for a longer period than the law allowed. That there was nothing in this case, which, in technical language, tended to a perpetuity. An estate might be limited to one for life, remainder to another for life, remainder to a third, and so on to 20 persons for life; nay, a Love v. settlement had, by the directions of a court of equity, been made, limiting an estate to 50 persons in being, for their fuccessive lives: and no inconvenience had ever been apprehended from such limitations. The

Wyndham, Sid. Rep. 450. 3 Cha.

rule

Humberston v. Humberston, 1 P. Wms. 332. Scattergood v. Edge, Salk. 229. 2 Bro. Cha. Ca. 30.

rule had been laid down in plain and intelligible terms, with reference to the very circumstance of the number of lives; that it did not signify how great the number of lives was, for it was but for the life of the furvivor, and, therefore, for the life of but one perfon. A man might appoint 100 or 1000 trustees, and that the survivor should appoint a life estate, that would be within the line of a perpetuity. The judges had never been aware of the difference between one life and 20 lives. Every executory devise was good, that did not tend to make an offate unalienable beyond the period allowed by law as to legal estates, which could not be rendered unalienable beyond the time at which the remainder-man, who was not in existence at the time of the limitation of the estate, would arrive at the age of 21. The court had no criterion to judge of the inconvenience arising from restraining the alienation of property by executory devise, except by analogy to the restraint which the common law allowed to be put on the alienation of real property.

ad, That the notion, that an executory devise was good or bad according to the number of lives after which it was to take effect, never occurred to any judge or lawyer until the present case: nor could such a notion be supported, unless it should be determined that a judge was to decide upon the particular circumstances of each particular case, and that he was not to look for a general rule, but for particular instances in which the general rule had been acted upon. That in the Duke of Norfolk's case, Lord Nottingham, so far from decid-

ing upon the principle, that executory devises must depend upon the rule of convenience or inconvenience, had positively declared that he intended to confine executory devises and trusts within the limits of estates tail, and without any exception, he gave the same limitation to executory devises, and trusted that the extent of the property, the cruelty or kindness of the disposition could not be permitted to operate upon the decision of a court of justice. The intention of this case was clear and certain: it was consistent with the rules of law, that intention could not be controuled by ideas of its fitness or unfitness, of its policy or impolicy; the intention of the testator was consistent with the settled rules of law at the time when his will was made, and, therefore, the will must be established.

3d. That the objection, that the doctrine of execu- Hopkins v. tory devises was not applicable to a trust of accumula- Hopkins, Talb. Rep. tion, was totally unfounded; the attention of a court 44. of equity had been frequently directed to a trust of accumulation: There were many cases, in which accumulation had been directed by the court, because the testator had directed it expressly; others, in which Gibson v. it had been directed, because the will contained indicatives. 485. tions of fuch an intention; and others, in which the attention of the court had been so particularly called to the legality of the accumulation directed, as to fix the period, beyond which such accumulation was not to extend; the objection had never been before made, even in argument, except in the case of Lady Denni-Jon's will, when it was raised in argument, but without Vol. VI. Nn. success. 1786.

Harrison v. Harrison, 21st July

success. That it had always been considered as in the power of a testator to direct an accumulation of the rents and profits of his estates for the same period of time, during which the law allows a testator to render his estate unalienable. If that was not the period, during which the trust of accumulation was to continue, what other period was to be substituted? Might the accumulation be permitted for one life, or for three lives, or for twenty? Different judges might entertain very different opinions upon the subject: one good life might be more than equal to fifty bad lives. The rule, therefore, which could be neither extended nor contracted, was laid down by the law; and was, that accumulation might go on during that period of time, during which the law permitted the estate to remain unalienable: the law did not regard the quantity of property accumulated, but anxiously provided that, when accumulated, it should not remain unalienable beyond a period clearly marked out and ascertained.

4th. With respect to the objection, that a child is ventre sa mere was not a life in being for the purpose of suspending the absolute vesting of an estate, it was clear that such children were considered by the law as in being for a variety of purposes. They were considered as in being at the death of an intestate, in order to be entitled to take under the statute for distribution of an intestate's estates; they were capable of taking by descent estates in fee-simple, or in fee-tail. It was admitted, that they were to be considered as in being for all purposes, and in all cases, for their own benefit; but it was said, that they were not considered as in being

being for such a purpose as the present; the whole foundation for the argument, that such children were to be considered as in being for their own benefit only, rested upon some words which some reporters of decifions have ascribed to judges, when delivering their opinions upon claims made by fuch children: but these words, if they were used in those cases, by no means negative the proposition, that such children were in being for all purposes; there was no reason for confining the rule: they were entitled to all the privileges of other persons, and it was reasonable they should be the means of conferring privileges upon other persons; but the law considered such children as in being, in cases in which they might be prejudiced; they might be vouched in a recovery, though such voucher was for the purpose of making them answerable over in value; they might be executors. Such a child had been confidered in being for such a purpose as the present, in Long v. Blackall, which was a complete decision on the very point. Supposing that the case of Long v. Blackall had not settled the point, the words in the testator's will, "born in due time afterwards," afforded a principle of construction sufficient to maintain the point. Those words must mean; in construction of law, as describing that period during which persons might come in ese, for whose lives, according to the law, the accumulation might go forward.

5th. With respect to the objection, that the words of restriction in the will, "as shall be living at the time of my decease, or born in due time afterwards," were, according to just construction, to be confined to Nn2

the

the last class of persons, during whose lives the accumulation was to be; and could not, according to the rules of construction, be carried back to any of the preceding classes. It was submitted, that the clause of restriction could not be disconnected from all the descriptions of persons whose lives were specified. It was one sentence, and the qualification was applicable, and must be applied to the whole: strict grammatical construction was not the rule, which governed in wills, if the intention of the testator required a different construction: and this fort of construction applied to all cases, whether the testamentary disposition were contrary to, or confishent with, what might be considered as worthy of favour, that the intention of the testator, if it were not inconsistent with the rules of law, was alone to be attended to. That it was impossible to read the clause in question, with a view to discover the real meaning of the testator, without being convinced that the testator meant to apply the restrictive words to all the members of the clause, that should require such restriction; the adding of the restriction, after the envmeration of the last class of persons, was not, because it was intended to apply to that only, but in order to avoid the frequent repetition of it.

oth. As to the objection, that the testator had exceeded the bounds prescribed by law for the suspense of property, in the clause by which he directed the property to be invested in the sunds, until such purchase could be found, if such objection was now to be repeated, the answer was, that such was the case in every will, where there was a direction to lay out the

Secrimin-

accumulating fund of principal and interest in lands. It was always in this way, that, until the purchase could be made, the money was to be accumulated, where an accumulating fund was to be made the ground of purchase, the interest and dividends, until the purchase was made, were never directed to be paid to the person who would be entitled to the rents and profits of the lands to be purchased.

• The following questions were put to the Judges:—

1st. A testator, by his will, being seised in see of the real estate therein mentioned, made the following devise: "I give and devise all my manors, messuages, " tenements, and hereditaments, at Brodsworth, in the " county of York, after the death of my sons Peter "Isaac Thellusson, George Woodford Thellusson, and " Charles Thellusson, and of my grandson John Thel-". lusson, fon of my said son Peter Isaac Thellusson, and of fuch other sons as my said son Peter Isaac Thel-" lusson now has or may have, and of such issue as " my said grandson John Thellusson may have, and of " such issue as any other sons of my said son Peter " Isaac Thellusson may have, and of such sons as my 66 faid fons George Woodford Thellusson and Charles Thellusson may have, as shall be living at the time of my decease, or born in due time afterwards; and se after the deaths of the survivors and survivor of the several persons aforesaid, to such person as, at the se time of the death of the survivor of the said several persons, shall then be the eldest male lineal descendant of my son Peter Isaac Thellusson, and his heirs Nn_3 ee for were seven persons actually born, answering the description mentioned in the testator's will: and there were two in ventre sa mere, answering the description, if children in ventre sa mere do answer that description. All the said several persons, so described in the testator's will, being dead; and, at the death of the survivor of such several persons, there being living one male lineal descendant of the testator's son Peter Isaac Thellusson, and one only: Is such person entitled by law, under the legal effect of the devise above stated, and the legal construction of the several words in which the same is expressed, to the said manors, messuages, tenements, and hereditaments at Brodsworth?

2d. If, at the death of the survivor of such several persons as aforesaid, such only male lineal descendant was not actually born, but was in ventre sa mere, would such lineal descendant, when actually born, be so entitled?

The Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer delivered their unanimous opinion upon the said questions in the affirmative,

The following is a note of his Lordship's speech on that occasion,

The first objection to the will is, that the testator has exceeded that portion of time within which the contingency must happen, upon which an executory devise is permitted to be limited by the rules of law,

for three reasons. First, Because that so great a number of lives cannot be taken, as in the present instance, to protract the time during which the vesting is sufpended; and, consequently, the power of alienation fulpended. Secondly, That the testator has added to the lives of persons who should be born at the time of nis death, the lives of persons who might not. Thirdly, That, after enumerating different classes of lives, during the continuance of which the vesting is suspended, the testator has concluded with these restrictive words, " as shall be living at my decease, or born in due time " afterwards:" that, as these words appertain only to the last class in the enumeration, the words which are used in the preceding classes being unrestricted, they will extend to grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and so make this executory devise void in its creation, as being too remote. With respect to the first ground, wiz. the number of lives taken, which, in the prefent instance, is nine, I apprehend, that no case or dictum. has drawn any line as to this point, which a testator is forbidden to pass. On the contrary, in the cases in which this subject has been considered, by the ablest judges, they have for a great length of time expressed themselves as to the number of lives, not merely without any qualification or circumspection, but have treated the number of existing lives as a matter of no moment; the ground of that opinion being, that no public inconvenience can arise from a suspension of the vesting, and thereby placing land out of circulation, during any one life; and that, in fact, the life of the furvivor of many persons named or described is but the life of some one. This was held, without dissent, by Nn4 Twisden

Twisden in Love v. Wyndham, 1 Mod. 50., 20 years before the determination of the Duke of Norfolk's case, who says, that the devise of a term may be for 20 lives, one after another, if all be in existence at once. this expression, he must be understood to mean any number of lives, the extinction of which could be proved without difficulty. When this subject of executory trusts came to be examined by the great powers of Lord Nottingham, as to the time within which the contingency must happen, he thus expresses himself: " If a term be devised, or the trust of a term limited, "to one for life, with 20 remainders for life succes-" fively, and all the persons are in existence and alive " at the time of the limitation of their estates, these, " though they look like a possibility upon a possibility, " are all good, because they produce no inconve-" nience: they wear out in a little time." With an easy interpretation, we find, from Lord Nottingham, what that tendency to a perpetuity is, which the policy of the law has considered as a public inconvenience; namely, where an executory device would have the effect of making lands unalienable beyond the time which is allowed in legal limitations, that is, beyond the time at which one remainder-man would attain his age of 21, if he were not born when the limitations were executed; when he declares, that he will stop where he finds an inconvenience, he cannot, consistently with a second construction of the context, be understood to mean, where judges arbitrarily imagine, they perceive an inconvenience; for he has himself flated where inconvenience begins, namely, by an attempt to supersede the vesting longer than can be done by legal limitations. I understood him to mean that, wherever courts perceive that such would be the effect, whatever may be the mode attempted, that effect must be prevented: and he gives the same, but no greater. latitude, to executory devises and executory trust, as to estates tail. This has been ever fince adopted; in Scatterwood v. Edge, 1 Salk. 229., the court held that an executory estate, to arise within the compass of a reasonable time, is good; as 20 or 30 years, so is the compass of a life or lives: for, let the lives be never so many, there must be a survivor, and so it is but the length of that life. In Humberston v. Humberston, 1 P. Wms. 332., where an attempt was made to create a vast number of estates for life in succession, as well to persons unborn as to persons in existence; Lord Cowper restrained that devise within the limits assigned to common law conveyances, by giving estates for life to all those who were living (at the death of the testator), and estates tail to those-who were unborn; considering all the co-existing lives, (a vast many in number), as amounting in the end to no more than one life, His Lordship was in the situation, attended to by Lord Nottingham, where a visible inconvenience appeared. The bounds, prescribed to limitations in common law conveyances, were exceeded: the excess was cut off; and the devise confirmed within those limits. Hardwicke repeats the same doctrine in Sheffield v. Lord Orrery, 3 Atk. 282.; using the words "life" or " lives," without any restriction as to number. other cases might be cited to the like effect: but I shall only add what is laid down in two very modern cases. In Gurnall v. Wood, Lord Chief Justice Willes speaks

of a life or lives, without any qualification: and Lord Thurlow, in Robinson v. Hardcastle, says, that a man may appoint 100 or 1000 trustees; and that the survivor of them shall appoint a life estate. It appears, then, that the co-existing lives, at the expiration of which the contingency must happen, are not confined to any definite number. But it is asked, shall lands be rendered unalienable during the lives of all the individuals, who compose very large societies or bodies of men, or whose other very extensive descriptions are made use of? It may be answered, that, when such cases occur, they will, according to their respective circumstances, be put to the usual test, whether they will or will not tend to a perpetuity, by rendering it almost, if not quite impracticable, to ascertain the extinction of the lives described; and will be supported or avoided accordingly.

But it is contended, that, in these, and other cases, the persons during whose lives the suspension was to continue, were persons immediately connected with, or immediately leading 'to, the person in whom the property was first to vest, when the suspension should be at an end. I am unable to find any authority for considering this as a fine qua non, in the creation of a good executory trust. It is true that this will almost always be the case and mode of disposing of property, introduced and encouraged, up to a certain extent, for the convenience of families; which, in almost all instances, look to the existing members of the family of the testator, and its connections. But when the true reason for circumscribing the period, during which alienation

alienation may be suspended, is adverted to, there seems to be no ground or principle, that renders such an ingredient necessary. The principle is, the avoiding of a public loss, by placing property for too great a length of time out of commerce. The length of time will not be the greater or less, whether the lives taken have any interest vested or contingent, or have not; nor whether the lives are those of persons immediately connected with, or immediately leading to, that person in whom the property is first to vest; terms, to which it is difficult to annex any precise meaning. The policy of the law can no way be affected by those circumstances; which, I apprehend, look merely to duration of time. This could not be the opinion of Lord Thurlow in Robinson v. Hardcastle; nor is any such opinion to be found in any case, or book, upon this subject. The result of all the cases upon this point is thus summed up by Lord Chief Justice Willes, with his Rep. 215. usual accuracy and perspicuity: " Executory devises have not been considered as mere possibilities, but es as certain interests and estates, and have been refembled to contingent remainders in all other refpects, only they have been put under some restraints, of to prevent perpetuities. As at first it was held, that the contingency must happen within the compass of 46 a life or lives in being, or a reasonable number of se years, at length it was extended a little farther, for namely, to a child in ventre sa mere, at the time of the father's death; because, as that contingency must recessarily happen within less than nine months after se the death of a person in being, that construction would introduce no inconvenience; and the rule "has,

"has, in many instances, been extended to 21 years after the death of a person in being; as, in that case likewise, there is no danger of a perpetuity." Comparing what the testator has done in the present case with what is above cited, it will appear, that he has not postponed the vesting even so long as he might have done.

The second objection which has been made in this case is, that the testator has added to the lives of persons, in being at the time of his decease, those of persons not then born. It becomes, therefore, necessary to discover, in what sense the testator meant to use the words "born in due; time after-"wards." Such words, in the case of a man's own children, mean the time of gestation: what is to be intended by these words in this will, must be collected from the will itself. It may be collected from the will itself, that by those words, the testator meant to describe the period of time, within which issue might be born, during whose lives the trust might legally continue; or, in other words, whom the law would consider as born at the time of his decease. Now, these could only be such children of the several persons named, as their respective mother's were-ensient with, at the time of his death. Or he may have meant to use the word "born," as denoting that period of time, which would be the necessary period for effecting his purpose. This is probable, from his using the same words as applied to the time, during which the presentation to the advowson of Mar might be suspended, without incurring a lapse. That a child in ventre sa mere was considered in existence, so as to be capable of taking

by executory devise, was maintained by Powell in the case of Loddington v. Kyme (1 Ld. Ray. 203.) upon the ground, that the space of time between the death of the father, and the birth of the posthumous son, was so short, that no inconvenience could ensue. So, in Northey v. Strange, 1 P. Wms. 340., Sir John Trever held that, by a devise to children and grandchildren, an unborn grandchild should take. Two years after, Lord Mactlesfield, in Burdett v. Hopegood, I P. Wms. 486., held that, where the devise was to a cousin, if the testator should leave no son at the time of his death, a posthumous son should take, as being left at the testator's death. In Wallis v. Hodgson, 2 Atk. 117., Lord Hardwicke held, that a posthumous child was entitled under the statute of distribution; and his reafon deserves notice. "The principal reason," (says he), " that I go upon, is, that the plaintiff was in " ventre sa mere at the time of her brother's death, " and, consequently, a person in rerum natura; so that, " by the rules of the common and civil law, she was to " all intents and purposes a child, as much as if born " in the father's lifetime." Such a child, in charge ing for the portions of other children living at the death of the father, is included as then living; Beale v. Doe, 1 P. Wms. 244.; and so in a variety of other reports. In Basset v. Basset, Lord Hardwicke decreed rents and profits, which had accrued at the rent day preceding his birth, to a posthumous child: and, since the statute 10 and 11 Wm. 3., such children seem to be considered in all cases of devise, and marriage or other festlement, to be living at the death of their father, although not born-till after his decease. It is otherwise considered in the case of descent. Quartley,

Quartley, 1 T. R. 634., the devise was to Hester Read for life, daughter of Walter Read, and to the heirs of her body, and, for default of such issue, to such child as the wife of Walter Read is now ensient with, and the heirs of the body of such child; then to the right heirs of Walter Read and Mary his wife. It was contended, that the last limitation was too remote, as coming after a devise to one not in being, and his issue. But the court said, that, since the statute of King William, which puts posthumous children on the fame footing with children born in the lifetime of their ancestor, this objection seemed to be removed, whatever was the case before. In Gulliver v. Wickett, 1 Will. 105., the devise was to the wife for life, then to the child with which she was supposed to be ensient, in fee, provided that, if such child should die before 21, leaving no issue, the reversion should go to other persons named. The court faid, if there had been no devise to the wife for life, which made the ulterior estate a contingent remainder, the devise to the child in ventre fa mere, being in future, would have been a good executory devise. In Lancashire v. Dee, 5 Term R. 49., the Court of King's Bench has held, that marriage and the birth of a posthumous child revoke a will, in like manner as if the child had been born in the lifetime of the father. In Doe v. Clarke, Lord Chief Justice Eyre holds that, independently of intention, an infant in ventre sa mere, by the course and order of nature, is then living, and comes clearly within the description of children living at the parent's decease s and he professes not to accede to the distinction between the cases, in which a provision has been made

for

for children generally, and where the testator has been supposed to mark a personal affection for children, who happened to have been actually born at the time of his death. The most recent case is that of Long v. Barkland; the Court of B. R. had no doubt that a devise to a child in ventre sa mere, in the first instance, was good; and a limitation over was good also, on the contingency of there being no issue male, or descendant of issue male, living at the death of such posthumous child. It seems then, that, if estates for life had been given to the several cestuis que vie in this will, and, after their deaths, to their children, either born or in ventre sa mere at the testator's death, they would have been good. No tendency to perpetuity, then, can arise in the case of fuch lives being taken, not to confer on them a meafure of the beneficial interest, but to fix the time during which the vesting of the property, which is the subject of this devise, shall be protracted; inasmuch, as the circulation of real property is no more fettered in the one case, than in the other. It is, however, observable, that this question may never arise, if it shall so happen that the children, in ventre matris at the death of the testator, shall not survive those who were then born.

The third ground of objection depends upon the application of the restrictive words, which are added to the enumeration of the different classes of persons, during whose lives the restriction is suspended. This objection, (I conceive,) will be removed, by the application of the usual rules in construing wills to the present case. First, where the intention of the testator is clear, and is consistent with with the rules of law, that shall prevail. His intention evidently was, to prevent alienation, as long as by law he could: if, then, it is to be supposed, that the restrictive words are to be confined to the last of seven different descriptions, and that the testator intended to leave the four descriptions of persons, which immediately preceded this seventh class, without the benefit of such restriction, although they stand in need of it, we must do violence to all established rules on this head. That construction is to be adopted, which will support the general intent. The grammatical rule, of referring qualifying words to the last of the antecedents, is not even supposed by grammarians themselves to apply, when the general intent of a writer or speaker would be defeated by fuch a confined application of them. Reason and common sense revolt at the idea of overlooking the plain intent, which is disclosed in the context; namely, that they should be applicable to fuch classes as require them; and, as to the others, to consider them as surplusage: if words will admit of more constructions than one, that which will support the legal intention of the testator, is, in all cases, to be adopted:

I do not trouble your Lordships with any observation upon the objections, arising from the magnitude of the property in question, either as it now stands or may hereaster stand; or as to the motives which may have influenced this testator, nor his neglect of those considerations, by which I, or any other individual, may or ought to have been moved: that would be to suppose, that such topics can in any way affect the judicious mind. For these imperfect reasons,

I concur

I concur with the rest of the Judges in offering this answer to your Lordship's first question.

As to the second question, the objection to such child being entitled, must arise from an allowance having been made for the time of gestation, at the end of the executory trusts: it seems to be settled, that an estate may be limited in the first instance to a child unborn; and, I apprehend, to the first and other fons in fee, as purchasers. The case of Long v. Blackball seems to have decided, that an infant in ventre matris is a life in being. The established length of time, during which the vesting may be suspended, is a life or lives in being, the period of gestation, and the infancy of such posthumous child. If then, this time has been allowed, in some cases at the beginning, and in others, at the termination of the suspension; and, if such children are considered, by the construction of the statute 10 and 11 Wil. 3., as being born to fuch purposes, what should prevent the period of gestation from being allowed, both at the commencement and at the termination of the suspension, if called for? In those cases where it has been allowed at the commencement, and particularly in Long v. Blackhall, it must have been obvious to the court, that it might be wanting at the termination: yet that was never made an objection. In Gulliver v. Wickett, the child, which was supposed to be in ventre sa mere, might have married and died before 21, and left his wife ensient: in that case, a double allowance would have been required; yet that possibility was never made an objection, although it was obvious. In Long v. Black-00 Vol. VI. hally

ball, according to the printed report, the precise point was not gone into. But it is plain, that the attention of the court must have been drawn to it: for the learned Judge, who argued that case in support of the devise, expressly stated, " that every common case of a limitation over, after a devise for a life in being, with remainder in trust to his unborn issue, includes " the same contingency as was then in question: for " the heir for life may die, leaving his wife ensient; " and the only difference is, that the period of gestation occurs at the beginning, instead of the end, of " the first legal estate." It must have been palpable, that it might possibly occur at both ends. Every reason, then, for allowing the period of gestation in the one case, seems to apply with equal force to the other, and leads the mind to this conclusion, that it ought to be allowed in both cases, or in neither case. But, natural justice having, in several cases, considered children in ventre matris as living at the death of the father, it should seem that no distinction can properly be made; but that, in the singular event of both periods being required, they should be allowed, as there can be no tendency to a perpetuity.

After the opinion of the Judges had been delivered, the Lord Chancellor addressed the House as follows.

The learned Judges having given their opinion upon the points of law referred to them, there is nothing remaining for the confideration of the House, except one question, which could not be referred to the Judges. This cause was decided in the Court of Chancery

Chancery by Lord Rosslyn, with the assistance of Lord Alvanley, Mr. Justice Buller, and Mr. Justice Lawrence, and, I believe, that I speak in the hearing of those who know, that the late Lord Kenyon could hardly be brought to consider these questions as fit to be argued, thinking it dangerous, after what had been settled with respect to executory devises, to allow so much consideration to be given to them. His opinion upon the subject was never doubted. In the case of Robinson v. Hardcastle, it is laid down as unquestionably competent to a testator to give the power of appointing a life estate to the survivor of a thousand persons, to begin at the decease of such survivor. Your Lordships, therefore, have the concurrent testimony of all the learned persons to whom I have alluded, as well as of the learned Judges, whose unanimous opinion has been delivered this day, upon this great case. Not great indeed on account of the questions which it involves, or of any thing of which, as judges, we can take notice, since the decision must be the same, whether the property in question be one hundred pounds, or seven hundred thousand pounds per annum. were allowable to entertain a wish upon the subject, perhaps we might all concur; but we are only to consider, whether there be any thing in this will to render When it was faid that an attempt to tie up property for nine lives, was illegal, I thought that such a proposition could not be supported; for the length of time does not depend upon the number, but on the nature of the lives; if we are to argue on probabilities, two lives may last longer than nine or ten. in the year 1796, estates had been devised to accumu-

late during the lives of fo many of the members of this house as have died since that time, it might have been argued, that the property was tied up for 20 or 30 lives: and yet this number of lives has worn out in a very short period. The question, therefore, cannot turn upon the magnitude of the property, or the number of the lives. The question is, whether there be any rule of law which prescribes a period for which property may be unalienable? Now, the language of all the cases is this, that property may be so limited as to make it unalienable during any number of lives. I know no other rule but that. Such being the law, there is another question arising upon this will, which is a pure question of equity, whether a testator can direct the rents and profits to be accumulated during that period for which he may so make the property unalienable? That he may do so, I take to be most clear. In truth, I speak in the hearing of those who will assent to me, when I say, that if the testator had given the residue of his personal estate to such person as should be the eldest male descendant of Peter Isaac Thellusson at the death of the survivor of all the lives, without more, that simple bequest would direct an accumulation, until it should be seen what person anfwered the description of that male descendant; and the effect of the common rules of law would have supplied the rest. The course of proceeding would have been, to enquire, whether the executory devise of the personal estate to such future individual were good; and, if it were good, then, wherever the residue was given, the interests and profits would go likewise. There can be no more objection to such person

person taking the interest, than the capital itself. pose the nine persons during whose lives this property is tied up had been lunatics, the interest and profits would be accumulated without any direction; nor does the policy of the law, which respects perpetuities, apply to the case of accumulation: the rents and profits are not locked up, but are constantly invested, and the fund is kept in a course of constant circulation. If, then, the fruits of the property are kept in constant circulation, while the property is limited, what objection can there be to accumulation? I remember, in the case of Mrs. Buckley's will, where the testatrix had given property to such son of her infant daughter as should first attain the age of 21, Lord Kenyon, then Master of the Rolls, directed the whole profits to accumulate during that period, taking the rule to be quite clear, that, so long as the property was unalienable, he might direct the rents and profits to accumulate. And I speak with great sincerity, when I say, that I never could entertain the least doubt upon the subject. If we lay aside all the cases which have occurred since the act of 40 and 41 Geo. 3., there is Infra s. 57. nothing to impeach it. That act was rather a matter of surprise upon me, and, perhaps, it is not one of the wisest legislative measures: it must be remembered, . that it expressly alters what it takes to have been the former law, and confines the power of accumulation to 21 years. But if your Lordships were to exercise the power of accumulation in all the cases allowed by the act, the accumulation would be enormous. not occur to those who penned the act of 40 and 41 Geo. 3., that if this very will had been made subsequent

Griffiths v. Vere, infra 1. 59.

to the passing of that act, the accumulation directed by the will would have gone on for 21 years. Court of Chancery has decided, that if a person makes such a disposition of his property that it may be unalienable for a longer period than is allowed by the act, such disposition is only void for so much as exceeds the term of 21 years, leaving it good for the relt of the term. The only points which have ever appeared to me to bear an argument, have been those, upon the critical meaning of the words, "as shall be " living at the time of my decease;" and the words, " or born in due time afterwards," which follow the description of the persons during whose lives the property is tied up. If from any difinclination to give effect to the will, your Lordships were to construe the former words as referring to the last description of perfons only, that difinclination would be gratified at the expence of overturning all the rules of construction which have been settled for ages: and, even if your Lordships should feel inclined to give any relief by legillative interference, which would be very bold, I am quite sure that you will not be so bold as to give a wrong judgment in point of law, that if a person makes fuch a disposition of his property, that it may be unalienable for a longer period than is allowed by the act, such disposition is only void for so much as exceeds the term of 21 years, leaving it good for the rest of the term. With respect to the other point, viz. "born in due time afterwards," I observe that, according to the printed report, one of the Judges held, that these words must refer to a child in ventre sa mere; and the others, that they amounted to a declaration

claration of the testator's will, that the property should be unalienable and accumulate during the lives of all the persons, born or unborn, whom the law authorized him to take as lives. In my opinion, either of these constructions may be taken to be the true meaning, agreeably to the rules of law; but I must add, that, according to the rules of law, the house must put fuch a construction upon the words, as will support the testator's intention; it is, therefore, quite beside the question, to argue what child should take, because the testator is describing the lives of persons, in order to define the period of time during which the power of alienation is to be suspended, and the accumulation is to go on. But, if it were necessary, I should have no difficulty, as a lawyer, in stating to the house, that I think the rule of law has been rightly laid down, that the period of gestation is to be taken at the beginning and the end. In Gulliver v. Wicket, the devise was to a child of whom the mother was ensient, with a proviso, that the property should go over, if that child should die under 21 without issue; and in the construction of that devise, it was laid down, that the devise extended to the child in ventre sa mere; and that, if the child to whom it was given had attained 20 years of age, and married, and died leaving his wife ensient, it could not be said that the property was not vested. In the case of Long v. Blackall, I thought it my duty as counsel, to submit to the consideration of the Chancellor, such points as occurred to me in support of the interest of my client, and urged, that the allowance for the time of gestation was made at both ends. I thought that the point was not treated 004

cellor sent the case to the Court of King's Bench, but the point was not made; and when I pressed the Chancellor to send it there again, his answer was, that he was very much ashamed of ever having sent it there; and that he would not send it again. I know that Lord Kenyon's opinion was quite clear upon the subject, as well as those of Mr. Justice Buller, and Mr. Justice Lawrence. This, therefore, is a case, in which the legal doctrine is clear; and, whatever may be our regret upon the subject, is it not our duty to determine according to law? When I put the question, whether this decree shall be reversed, I shall think myself bound to say, that I think it ought to be affirmed.

The decree was affirmed.

\$ 57. By the statute 39 and 40 Geo. 3. c. 98., it is enacted, "That no person or persons shall, after the passing of that act, by any deed or deeds, surrender der or surrenders, will, codicil, or otherwise how-some solution feetle or dispose of any real or personal property, so and in such manner that the rents, issues, profits, or produce thereof, shall be wholly or partially accumulated, for any longer term than for the life or lives of any such grantor or grantors, settler or settlers, or the term of 21 years from the death of any such grantor, settlor, devisor, or testator, or during the minority or respective minorities of any person or persons who shall be living or in wentre sa mere, at the time of the death of such grantor, devisor, or testator, or during the minority

or respective minorities only of any person or per-" sons, who, under the uses or trusts of the deed, " furrender, will, or other assurances, directing such accumulations; would for the time being, if of full " age, be entitled unto the rents, issues, and profits, " or the interest, dividends, or annual produce so di-" rected to be accumulated. And in every case where " any accumulation shall be directed otherwise than " as aforesaid, such direction shall be null and void; " and the rents, issues, profits, and produce of such " property so directed to be accumulated, shall, so " long as the fame shall be directed to accumulate " contrary to the provisions of this act, go to and be received by such person or persons as would have se been entitled thereto if fuch accumulation had not " been directed.

"Provided always, that nothing in that act contained should extend to any provision for payment of
debts of any grantor, settlor, or devisor, or other
person or persons, or to any provision for raising
portions for any child or children of any person
taking any interest under any such conveyance, settlement, or devise, or to any direction touching the
produce of timber or wood upon any lands or tenements, but that all such provisions and directions
shall and may be made and given as if the act had
not passed."

\$ 58. Although a trust of accumulation created by will during the continuance of a life, is void under this statute, yet such trust will be supported by the Court

Court of Chancery, during the time allowed by the act, namely, 21 years.

Griffiths v. Vere, 9 Vel. Jun. 127.

\$ 59. Charlotte Mathews devised all her real estates to trustees, upon trust to sell, and gave all her perfonal estate to the said trustees, upon trust to invest the monies to arise from the sale of her real estates, and her personal estate, in the public funds, upon trust to pay the dividends to her sisters Elizabeth Mary Griffiths and Martha Vere, during their joint lives in equal proportions; and after the decease of either of them, the whole to the survivor during her life. Provided, and she declared her will, that so much of the said dividends as should accrue due to Elizabeth Mary Griffiths during the life of John Griffiths her husband, should not during that time be paid to her, but the same should be, during his life, invested by the trustees in the public funds, and that the dividends or interest which should accrue thereon, should be added to and accumulate with the capital; and upon the deécase of the said John Griffiths, the said capital, with the accumulation thereof, should be forthwith paid to Elizabeth Mary Griffiths.

Under a bill by Mrs. Griffiths and her husband, the accounts having been directed against the trustees, who were also executors, a petition was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths, praying a declaration, that the proviso directing accumulation was contrary to the statute 39 and 40 Geo. 3. c. 98., and, therefore, hull and void: and that the patitioners were entitled to have

Title XXXVIII. Devife. Cb. xx. \$ 59.

have full benefit of the will, as if such clause had not been inserted.

A petition for the same purpose had been presented to the Master of the Rolls, and dismissed.

. In support of the petition, it was argued, that the meaning of the act was, that the whole attempt against which it was directed, should be void: it could not, therefore, be good for a given time, the Legislature having intimated nothing to that effect. A direction to accumulate for a life, was a direction to accumulate for more than 21 years, a life estate being larger than an estate for years. The value of the life was of no importance, and the court would not inquire into that. This act was to be construed by analogy to the law of executory devices, which were allowed only within certain limits. As the accumulation might, by possibility, last longer than 21 years, the disposition was void, as a limitation over of personal property, after a disposition to a man and the heirs of his body, was void, without regard to the possible event that they might be extinct within the period allowed by law. If the accumulation should, under the direction in the will, continue beyond the 21 years, what was to become of that, which was accumulated after that period; and of the interest of the previous accumulation?

Against the petition, it was contended, that this case arose upon a statute restraining the legal right to dispose

dispose of property. Upon the construction of the act, it clearly was not intended to prevent accumulation in any case after the death of the party, to the period of 21. years; and though an attempt was made to go beyond that, the purpose should be good to that extent, in whatever form it was directed; for no precife form of directing accumulation was prescribed, nor could that be intended; but it was sufficient, whatever the form, that it was not to exceed the period of 21 years. The direction that, so far as accumulation was directed contrary to the act, it should be void, applied only to the excess. There would be certainly some difficulty, in the event of the parties living beyond the period of 21 years, to determine what should become of the excess. But, if Mrs. Griffiths survived that period, she would be entitled to the accumulation, provided she survived her husband, to whose death it was confined; and it was possible, that he might live only two or three years.

Lord Eldon said, the question turned on the will and the act of parliament. He understood a petition to the same effect was presented to the Master of the Rolls, insisting that, by the will, accumulation was prescribed beyond what was allowed by the act, and, therefore, the direction was wholly void; and that then Mrs. Griffith's husband was, within the terms of the act, entitled to the rents and profits, as if no such clause for accumulation was in the will. And the Master of the Rolls was of opinion, that, upon the true construction of the act, the accumulation directed during

during the life of the husband, if not in fact going beyond 21 years, was good; and if it did in fact continue beyond that period, yet, upon the true construction of the act, the direction was good pro tanto; and during the period of 21 years, the rents and profits were well directed to accumulate, leaving it to the law to determine what was to become of the rents and profits to accrue between the end of the 21 years, and the expiration of the life; and, of course, to determine also what was to become of the interest of the fund created by the accumulation permitted for the period of 21 years.

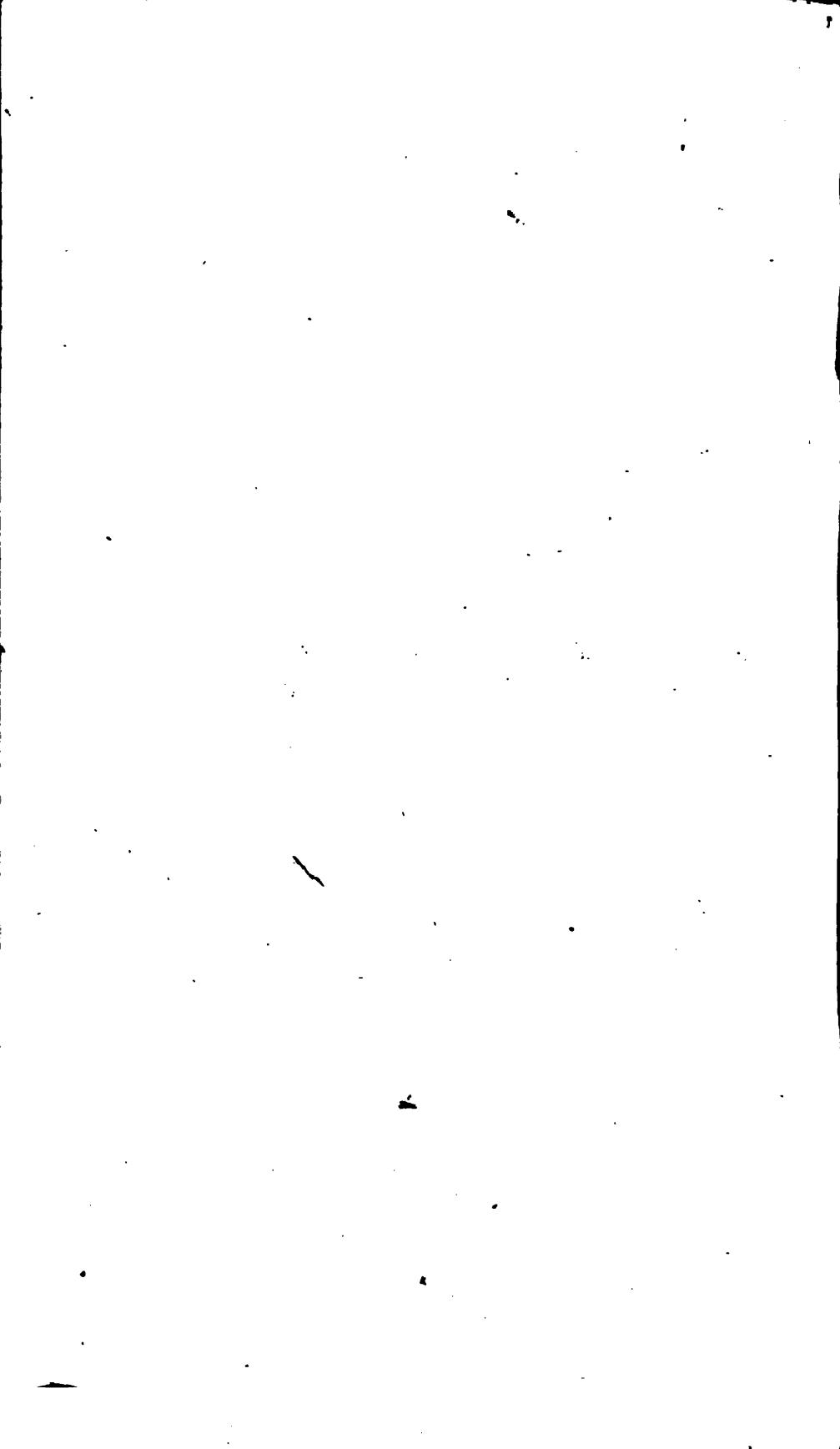
The fort of case now before him was not, he believed, much in the contemplation of the Legislature. It was material to attend to every word of the act, for the language was not very similar to any other act, with either enabling or restraining clauses. The phrase, partial accumulation," was rather expressive of the effect than of direction; but, considering the subsequent part, it must be construed what should be directed to be accumulated. If the act stopped at the declaration, that it should be null and void, the estate, in the meantime, would be considered as not given, unless falling into the residuary devise; and, therefore, the rents and profits undisposed of, must have gone to the heir. But the question was, whether the following words were not so explanatory of the former, as to shew in what sense the Legislature used the words declaring that it should be null and void; and whether, taking the whole clause together, it was not

meant, only as far as by the subsequent words it was directed to be so considered? The words, " so long," admitted two constructions; one, so long as the same, by the effect of the direction in the will, should be capable of being accumulated beyond 21 years from the death; the other, so long as the same should be directed to be accumulated contrary to the provisions of the act: the accumulation being understood to be contrary to the act, if directed by the will for more than 21 years. It was obvious, that many cases upon the old law of executory devise and accumulation, were not in any manner provided for by this act. He doubted whether the present case was thought of, for, by this will, the estate was given, not by executoy devise, but by creating a trust to pay the annual profits, and then followed the direction for accumulation. If that direction was struck out, it was contended that the effect was not, as in other cases, that those profits would be undisposed of, but that it must be considered a gift in prasenti; and that the clause for accumulation did not prejudice their immediately entering into the enjoyment. If it was necessary to decide that question, a good deal was to be said upon it; and it was not clear upon this will, that it could necessarily be made out that there was a gift in prasenti, if this direction was struck out of the will, for the whole must be taken together. But, supposing it not struck out, was the direction void altogether, because it was not a direction for accumulation during 21 years or less, but which might happen to operate during a period, that might last longer, admitting also that it might

might operate as a direction for less in effect? The point was doubtful, but, upon the whole, that construction which had been put upon the act was the right one; and he was the rather led to that, by the concurrence of opinion among those to whose assistance he had resorted upon the first construction of an act of so much importance, who all agreed, that this was the proper construction. Under these circumstances, finding the Master of the Roll's opinion to be such as he had stated; and that it had the concurrence of those whom he had consulted, it would be enough for him, if it was only the inclination of his opinion, to say this was the right construction.

The petition was dismissed.

END OF SIXTH AND LAST VOLUME.



INDEX TO THE TITLES.

ADVOWSON	• •	Vol	. III. Page 1
ALIENATION B	Y CUSTOM	•	V. —— 583
COMMON -	•		111. —— 9
COPYHOLD	å å	•	I. —— 293
COPARCENARY	•	•	11 537
CURTESY -	•	• •	T 104
ĎEED -		•	. IV.
DESCENT -	•		III 3 48
DEVISE -	• •		VI. — I
Dignities -	•	. , .	III 171
DOWER -	•	•	I. — 127
ESTATE IN FEE	-SIMPLE	• •	- I 1
ESTATE TAIL	• 4	. •	- I 25
ESTATE FOR LI	FE .	•	- I. — 59
ESTATE TAIL A	AFTER POSS	SIBILITY	- I.—— 97
ESTATE FOR YI	EARS -	•	ı I 248
ESTATE AT WI	LL AND SU	FFERANCE	I. —— 269
ESTATE UPON (CONDITION	•	II. — 1
E STATE BY STA	TUTE MER	CHANT, &c.	II. — 58
Yot. VI.	Рp		ESCHEAT

INDEX TO THE TITLES.

ESCHEAT	r -	•	•	Vol	, III. Page 489
FINE -	. •	•	•	•	V. — 1.
FRANCH	ISES	•	•	•	III. — 278
JOINTUR	E -	-	•	•	I. — 196
JOINT-TE	ENANCY	<i>-</i>	-	•	II 497
KING'S G	RANT	•	•	•	IV. — 564
MORTGA	GE	•	•	, •	II. — 82
OFFICES	•	•	•	•	III. — 132
PRESCRI	PTION	•	•	•	III. — 523
PRIVATE	EACT	•	. . . •	•	IY. — 509
REMAIN	DER	•		•	ĮI. — 258
REVERSI	ION	•	•	• .	II. —— 454-
RENTS	•	-	•	- -	III. — 306
RECOVE	RY	-	•	•	V. — 267
TENANC	Y IN CO	MMON	•	•	II. — 549
TITHES	-	•	•		III. — 52
TRUSTS	•	•	-	•	I. —— 4;8
USE	•	•	-	•	I. — 391
WAVC			-	•	III. —— 12I

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An Index of the Names of the Cases abridged and cited;

AND

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• • . . • • . . , •

CORRECTIONS AND ADDIT

DIGEST. THE

Vol. I.—Page 5, 1. 11. after Estates, insert beld.

22, l. 29. after treason, insert or felony.

64, 1. 23. for Exception, read Reversion.

72, last line but one, for mortgagor, read mortgagee.

92, 1. 19. for no, read a-1. 26. for bis, read the; and after administrators, insert, of the party that had the estate.

93, 1. 13. after convey, read jointly with such per-

205, 1. 6. after third, a, insert third.

221, 1. 22. for interred, read interest.

284, § 5. No notice is necessary to a tenant at sufferance.

301, § 32. The doctrine here laid down must be understood, that an attachment will lie against the lord, if he should refuse inspection after a rule of court directing it. Vide the King v. Shelley, 3 Term Rep.

1. 16. for deprivation, read depreciation.

405, l. 20. dele not.

414, l. 2. for eldest, read youngest.

445, 1. 10. after uses, insert, it is doubtful whether a use results to the releasor.

455, 1. 14. for G. read D.

461, L 20. after beirs, insert, in trust for B.

512, 1. 27. for devised, read demised.

514. L 21. for lesse, read lesser.

Page 325

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Voll. I.—Page 523, § 30. The determination of the Master of the Rolls, that a term attendant on the inheritance will not protest a purchaser from dower unless it has been actually assigned to a trustee for the purchaser, has been confirmed by Lord Elden.—Vide 10 Ves. Jun. 269.

Vol. II.—Page 28, l. 18. after could, insert not.

56, l. 5. for fcoffee, read feoffor.

108, 1. 19. after mortgage, insert, by a mort-

109, l. 30. for mortgager's, read mortgagee's.

124, l. 19. for vote for Knight of the Shire, read fit in Parliament.

130, l. 15. for mortgage, read mortgagee.

155, 1. 5. after agreed, insert to.

203, 1. 20. for agreement, read argument.

217, 1. 25. for affignment, read appointment.

Hardwicke.

235, last line, for incumbrancer, read incumbrance.

261, 1. 23. after beirs, insert male.

284, l. 11. for to, read by.

299, l. 22. for 21, read 24.

322, l. 11. for feoffee's, read feoffees.

350, l. 6. for agreement, read argument.

361, l. 1. after it, insert is.

402, l. 17. after entitled to, insert the.

403, 1. 8. after against, insert the Representatives of.

410, l. 17. for a, read A the-l. 19. for in, read is.

427, l. 29. for 41, read 21,

455, l. 24. dele case

467, last line but onc, for the second mischief, read the mischief.

477, l. 11. after action, dele the comma and infert a period—l. 12. after years, deie the period and infert a comma.

505, l. 20. for to, read by.

TO THE DIGEST.

Vol. III.—Page 24, 1. 20. for que, read que.

36, in margin, for b, read 6.

88, 1. 18. for to rector, read to the rector.

91, 1. 8. for thirty-one, read twenty-one.

136, l. 9. for by, read to.

143, first line after tantum, insert bis.

145, L 20. for judicialea, read judicialia.

186, 1. 18. for or, read of.

236, 1. 6. dele or felony.

271, l. 24. dele that.

313, 1. 7. dele the.

322, l. 15. for in tail, read for life.

394, l. 18 after them, insert, his grandfather's brothers or sisters, or their descendants, or for want of them.

430, first line, for 11, read 10.

503, 1. 27. for unfructuary, read usufructuary.

Vol. IV. - Page 32, 1. 4. for form, read formal.

45, l. 10. for is, read are.

71, l. 21. for lesse, read lessor.

\$ 27. And by the 3d section of this statute, all bonds and covenants for renewing any leases contrary to the statute 13 Eliz. or this statute, are declared void.

124. Add to § 31. By the feature 14 Eliz. cap. 11. Houses situated in any City, Borough, Town Corporate, or Market Town, or the suburbs thereof, may be leased for farty Years; and it has been resolved, that covenants for renewing leases of houses in Cities, &c. are not prohibited by the statute 18 Eliz. c. 11.—Crane v. Taylor Hob. 269.

127. At the end of § 29, add, Such leafes are now established by the statute 39 and 40 Geo. 3. c. 41.

158, 1. 9. dele in.

184, l. 12. for vendee, read bargainee.

188, l. 5. after in, insert possession or.

192, 1. 25. after stand, insert seised.

210, 1. 7. after Fines, insert and recoveries.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Vol. IV.—Page 240, § 32. In a subsequent case, Lord Eldes held clearly that a person may have a power of appointment, at the same time taking to himself the whole interest in the see over which the power is to be executed. To Ves. Jun. 254.

281, § 64. vide 10 Ves. Jun. 266.

300, l. 5. dele not.

309, l. 22. for these, read their.

321, 1. 16. after lessor, insert, er bis beirs.

351, l. 13. for its, read their.

406, L 6. for is, read are.

448, l. 3. for bufband, read wife. 461, L 15. for without, read with.

479. Venables v. Morris.—Lord Kenyon said, that if the limitation to the heirs of S. Morris was of a legal estate, it would have enlarged the estate in the ancestor,

and given him a fee.

Vol. V.—Page 25, line first, for illi, read ille.

29, 1. 7. for facto, read facta.

34, l. 21 & 28. for 1701, read 1702.

vin, 2 Black. R. 1230.

118 § 18. The acts cited apply only to fines levied before the passing of them.

136 § 13. instead of the first line, read, If a tenant in tail be disselfed, and accept a first of a stranger:

144, 1. 30. for grantor, read grantee.

214, l. 21. for lesser, read lesser.

351, last line, for W. G. read A. B. the vouchet.

361, 1. 19. sor after, read before.

442, last line, after barred, insert by.

537, marg. for 1 Atk. read 3 Atk.

549, first line, for surrenderee, read surrenderer.

552, l. 11. for mortgager's, read mortgagee's.

569, l. 13. iot made, read makt.

Vol. VI.—Page 21, 1. 3. for mortgagor, read mortgagee.

25, 1. 16. after ever, insert, but if his said brother should have but one son that should live

-TO THE DIGEST.

Vol. VI.—Page 25—continued.

to attain the faid age, then he gave the fame to fuch only fon, his heirs and assigns, for ever.

26, L. 2. for necessary, read unnecessary.

49, l. 3. for bill, read will.

- 57, last line but one, after written, for is, read
- 30, 1. 9. for revocation, read revocation.
- 1. 17. for censtur, read cencetur.
 88, 1. 4, for reversed, read consirmed.
- 126, 1. 23. for new term, read devise.
- 147, l. 6. for quatity, read quantity.

172, l. 24. dele sp

174, l. 6. for deivised, read devised.

- 176, in the margin, for Preced. in cb. 204. read. Amb. 686.
- 179, l. 20. for limitations, read distributions.

246, l. 5. after land, insert and estate.

- 248, last line but one, for obligation, read objection.
- 252, in the margin, for Ropewell, read Hopewell.
- 275, in the margin, for 601, read 605.
- 280, 1. 10. for person, read grandson.

282, 1. 10. for beirs, read issue.

283, l. 19. for dappen, read bappen.

330, l. 12. after it, add during their lives.

331, l. 12. dele eldest.

349, 1. 22. after to, add be.

353, Clarke v. Digges mistated, see Moor. 593, Cro. Eliz. 313. Owen 148. 1 Roll. Ab. 839. 2 Roll. Ab. 417. in Owen it is called Lilly v. Taylor.

349, l. 22. after to, insert be.

- 358, § 56. fer (12), read (9 § 6).
- 361, l. I. for carried, read carved.
 - 1. 20. for collected, read connected.

386, L. 10. dele sbould.

402, 1. 28. for purchase, read descent.

1. 29. for descent, read purchase.

442, l. 4. for iffue, read beir.

464, 1. 25. for ber, read bis.

473, L. 3. for declaration, read decree.

493, L 21. for ber, read beir.

494, l. 1. after then, read after his decease.

Page 504,

CORRECTIONS, Re.

Vol. VI.—Page 504, I. 7. after was, read not.

351, l. 25. for circumspection, read circumscription.

556. last line but two, for Mar, read Breef-

559, 1. 4. for Barkland, read Blackell.

560, lest line, sor judicious, read judicial. 562, l. 9. sor beir, read tenant.

564, last line but one, sot interests, read is

565, l. 22 & 31, for 40 and 41, read 39 and

566, l. 23. after the word how, put a period, and emit the rest of the sentence.

NAMES OF CASES.

A.

Abbot v. Burton, Title Remainder, - Vol. II. Page 432
, Advorvson, III. 40
- V. 484
Abel's Case, Deed, IV. 472
Abergavenny's Case, Dignities, III. 194
Abergavenny v. Thomas, Copyhold, I. 298
777
- 258
, Remainder, - II. 426, 427
v. Twigg, Deed, - IV. 444, 445
Acherley v. Vernon, Trusts, 1. 471
———, Devise, VI. 31, 59, 130, 134, 135, 136, 137
Ackland v. Ackland, id 255
v. Atwell, Estate for Life, - I. 79
Acton v. Baldwin, Recovery, V. 417
Adams v. Adams, Deed, - IV. 234, 279
v. Savage, Uses, I. 448
- Remainder, II. 349
v. Walter, Tithes, III. 64
Addington v. Clode, Prescription, - 529
Addis v. Clement, Devise, - VI. 206, 209, 212, 215
v. Otway, Recovery, 384, 391
Ager v. Pool, Devise, - VI. 320
Aggas v. Pickerell, Mortgage II. 153
- III. 505
Ailet v. Walker, Recovery, - V. 394
Aland v. Malone, id 508
Alban, Sir John's Case, Recovery, - 396
Aldred's Case, Prescription, III. 535
Alexander v. Alexander, Deed, IV. 269
Allanson v. Clitherow, Devise, VI. 289
Allen v. Heber, id 146
- v. Palmer, Alienation by Customs, - V. 559, 564
v. Sayer, Trusts, 1. 54 t V. 249
Alpaís
w was the same of

NAMES OF CASES.

	-1 757	D		-Q_
	ol. IV.			
Alsop v. Pine, Deed,	-			•
Altham v. Anglesea, Use,	-		I.	
Recovery,	-		V.	_
Amand v. Bradburn, Trust,	-		I.	
Ambrose v. Ambrose, id.		-		
Amesbury v. Brown, Morigage,	-		II.	_
Amrotts v. Catherick, Dower,	4		1.	
'Ancaster v. Mayer, Mortgage, -			175,	
Anderson's Case, Estate Tail, -			I	
Andrew v. Southouse, Devise, -	•		240,	_
Andrews v. Fulham, id.	•		_	_
Anonymous, Estate Tail after Possibility,	-	-	I.	102
, Jointure, -		•		224
, Coyyhold, -	-			
, Mortgage, - I	[. 117,	143,	i 56,	255
- Remainder, -			298,	_
Tithes,	-	H	I. 61	, 62
•		102,	109,	116
, Rents, -	•	₹		336
		-		568
, Deed,	IV.	116,	1742	232
, Fine, - V. 19, 72	, 155,	158,	230,	237
	•	278,	282,	40 I
, Alienation by Custom, -	•	•		566
, Devise, - VI. 2	1, 64,	176,	280,	301
v. Palmer, Common, -			105,	
Anstey v. Chapman, Devise, -	•		VI.	315
Antrim v. Becks, Deed,	-			
Aphary v. Bodingham, Reversion,	•		466,	483
, Deid,	-		IV.	_
Aprice's Case, Estate Tail after Possibility,	-		I.	•
Archer's Case, Remainder, -	•	*	II.	36 t
Deed,	-		IV.	
, Fine, -	1	•	V.	_
, Devise,			VI.	_
Ardo v. Watkins, Rents,	•		III.	
Argenton v. Westover, Fine,	-		V.	70
Argol v. Cheyney, Deed,		-	IV.	
Armstrong v. Wolsey, Use, -	•	•		443
Arnald'v. Arnald, Devise, -		•	VI.	
Arnold v. Renestead, Dower, -	•			186
Arthington v. Coverley, Advowson,	_		III.	28
· — • • •	·	•		112
U. I a water demanders	•	•	Art	hur

Arthur v. Bassett, Title Deed, - Vol. IV. Page 207
Arton v. Hare, Remainder, II. 261
Arundel v. Arundel, Fine, - V. 73, 227
v. Gloucester (Ep.) Advowson, - III. 27
v. Philpot, Deed, IV. 330
v. Steer, Common, III. 100
Ascough v. Johnson, Mortgoge, - II. 213
Atkinson v. Hutchinson, id 492
v. Baker, Estate for Life, - I. 92
Atkyns v. Atkyns, Devise, VI. 225
v. Longville, Deed, IV. 175
Attorney General v. Andrew, Condition, - II 40
Estate by Stat. &c 68
v. Barns, Devise, - VI. 55
v. Buller, id 233, 234
v. Burdett, Estate Tail, - I. 57
v. Cholmley, Tithes, III. 91
v. Christ's Hospital, Condition, - II. 40
v. Crofts, Mortgage, - 142
v. Downing, Devise, - VI. 132, 134, 135
v. Sands, Trufts, 1. 501
v. Scott, id 460, 497
v. Sutton, Devise - VI. 287
v. Vincent, Copyhold, - I. 366
Austen v. Taylor, Devise, - VI. 340, 375
Austin v. Austin, Deed, - IV. 265
v. Bennett, Copyhold, - 1. 360
v. Nicholas, Tithes, 111. 58
Avelyn v. Ward, Devise, VI. 506
Awdry v. Smallcombe, Tithes, - III. 68
Ayde v. Flower, id 63
Ayde v. Flower, id 63 Aylor v. Chep, Joint Tenancy, II. 503
Ayde v. Flower, id 63
Ayde v. Flower, id 63 Aylor v. Chep, Joint Tenancy, - II. 503

B.

THE TEST 1 POINT AT A		7 TTT	70 4
Babington v. Wood, Title Advowson	, -		Page 42
Back v. Andrews, Trusts, -			1. 480
, Joint Tenancy,	=		II. 509
Backhouse v. Wells, Devise, -	•		357, 361
Bacon v. Bacon, Descent,	•		III. 376
v. Hill, Devise, -	•		VI. 315
Bacon, Sir N.'s Case, Recovery,	-		342, 354
Baddeley v. Lippingwell, Devise,	-	-	VI. 261
Badger v. Lloyd, id	.	•	- 455
Bagot v. Oughton, Mortgage,	•		II. 181
, Deed,	•	-	IV. 301
Bagshaw v. Bosley, Advoroson,	-	-	III. 49
v. Spencer, Trusts,	•	- I.	467, 489
D **C	•		342, 362
Baily v Murin, Reversion,	-	· -	II. 466
Baker v. Berisford, Copybold,	- ,		I. 329
v. Johnson, Recovery,			V. 384
u Mountford, Advocuson,	-		III. 34
- v. Wall, Devise, -			VI. 269
- v. Wind, Mortgage, -			II. 86
Baldwin's Case, Deed, -	•	-	IV. 434
Bale v. Coleman, Devise, -		-	VI. 236
Ball v. Cock, Fine, -	•	-	V. 19
Ballet v. Spranger, Mortgage,	~	~	II. 188
Bamfield v. Popham, Devise,	~	•	VI. 298
- v. Wyndham, Mortgage,	-	-	II. 173
Banks v. Sutton, Trusts, -	-	I. 498,	525, 541
Barber v. Nunn, Fine,	-	-	V. 19
Barker v. Giles, Devise, -	-	-	VI. 413
v. Hill, Fine, -	-		V. 266
v. Keate, Deed,		- IV.	198, 200
-, Recovery, -	-	~	V. 332
- v. Smith, Devise, -	~	-	VI. 413
Barnadiston v. Fane, Estate by Statute	Mercha	nt, &c.	II. 74
Barnard v. Godscall, Estate for Life,		-	I. 70
- v. Large, Remainder,	•	•	II. 400
w. Woodcock, Recovery,	-	-	V. 348
Barnardiston v. Carter, Mertgage,	-	-	II. 281
Barnes v. Corke, Copyhold, -	•	-	I. 346
v. Crowe, L'evise,		VI. 133, 1	136, 139
Barret v. Glubb, Advortison, -	-		III. 38
Barrington's Case, Private Ast,	•	- IV. 5	19, 520
			Barry
•	•		-

Barry v. Edgeworth, Title Devise, - Vol. VI. Page 246
Bartholomew v. Belfield, Fine, - V. 173
- v. Mary, Mortgage, - II. 169
Bartlett v. Hodgson, Trusts, - I. 551
Barton v. Lever and Brownlow, Fine, - V. 228
Barton's Case, Remainder, - II. 379
- IV. 188
Barwick v. Foster, Rents, III. 326
Basket v. Pierce, Fine, - V. 162
Baspool's Case, Devise, VI. 145
Bassett v. Bassett, Jointure, - I. 209
, Remainder, II. 338
v. Clapham, id 39I
Bate v. Amherst, Devise, VI. 184
v. Norton, id 17
Bateman v. Bateman, id 436
Bateson v. Green, Common, III. 104
Bath v. Abney, Copyhold, I. 344
Bath (Ld.)'s Case, Recovery, - V. 463
Bath and Montague's Case, Deed, - IV. 330
Baugh v. Haines, id 123
Baxter v. Manning, Mortgage, - II. 142
Bayley v. Robson, id 144
- v. Oxford, University of, Recovery, - V. 381
- v. Stephens, Descent, III. 427
- v. Warburton, Deed, - IV. 236
Baynes v. Belson, id 305, 322
Beable v. Dodd, Trusts, I. 466
Beachcroft v. Beachcroft, Devise, - VI. 250, 430
Beale v. Beale, Deed, IV. 232
Beamont Barony, Case of, Dignities, - III. 261
Beard v. Nuthall, Jointure, - I. 224
Beaudly v. Brook, Deed, - IV. 177
Beaumont's Case, Fine, V. 134
Pohl Thomas Davids
Bebb v. Thomas, Devise, VI. 94
Beck's Case, Deed, IV. 445
Becket v. Cordley, Jointure, - I. 201
Beckford v. Pendarvis, Deed, - IV. 36
Beckwith's Case, id 222
Beckworth's Cafe, Uses, I. 444
Bedell v. Constable, Devise, VI. 14
Bedell's

Bedell's Case, Title Deed,	Vol. IV. Page 189
Bedford v. Blackhouse, id	IV. 349, 351, 352
Bedford (Earl of) v. Foster, Fine, -	- V. 72
Bedingfield's Case, Estate Tail, -	- I. 47
Dower,	- 178
Belch v. Harvey, Mortgage, -	- H. 154
Belchier v. Renforth, id.	239
Belfour v. Weston, Rents, -	- III. 351
Bellew v. Langdon, Common, -	106
Ranger of Dress Toule	
Benger v. Drew, Trusts,	- I. 486
Bennett v. Davis, id.	- 488
- v. Honywood, Devise, -	- VI. 537
- v. Reeve, Common, -	- III. 94
- v. Taylor, Devise, -	- VL 68
Benson v. Chester, Common, -	- III. 94
	- I. 353
- v. Scott, Copyhold,	
, Private A&, -	- V. 549
Beresford's Case, Deed,	- IV. 444
Bergavenny, Barony, Case of, Dignities,	- III. 188
Beresford v. Milward, Mortgage, -	- II. 20 0
Berkeley Barony, Case of, Dignities,	III. 274
Berkeley (Lord)'s Case, Fine, -	- V . 136
Berkeley a Warrick Tries	
Berkeley v. Warwick, Joint Tenancy,	- II. 530
Berneford v. Packington, Copyhold,	- I. 362
Berners, Barony, Case of, Dignities,	III. 261
Berrington v. Parkhurst, Remainder,	- II. 272
Fine,	- V. 238
Berry v. Rich, Deed,	- IV. 307
- v. Taunton, Condition, -	- II. 11
Bertle v. Faulkland, id.	
	- 20
Bertie v. Faulkland (Ld), Devise,	- VI. 164
Best v. Stamford, Trusts,	- I. 509
Bettison v. Faringdon, Recovery, -	- V. 456
Bettisworth's Case, Deed, -	- · IV. 103
Beverley's Case, Fine,	- V. 197
Beverley v. Beverley, Remainder, -	- II. 266
F :	- V. 460
Bicknell v. Gough, Prescription, -	- III. 566
Biddulph v. Biddulph, Private At,	- IV. 549
Bissield's Case, Devise,	- VI. 281
Biggin v. Bridge, Rents,	III. 326
Biggot v. Smith, Remainder, -	- II. 373
Eirch v. Wright, Efiate at Will,	- I. 278
Blackborn v. Edgeley, Devise -	- VI. 299
Blackburn v. Graves, Copyhold,	- I. 346
Blades v. Blades, Deed,	- IV. 354, 361
•	Blanchet

Bowdler v. Smith, Devise, Bowen v. Edwards, Mortgage, Bowle's Case, Remainder, - 280, 42 - IV. 475, 48 Bowsley v. Blackman, Mortgage, II. 10	100
Bowen v. Edwards, Mortgage, II. 9 Bowle's Case, Remainder, - 280, 42	I
Bowen v. Edwards, Mortgage, II. 9	1
Bowdler v. Smith, Devise, - V1. 43	
Bowater v. Elly, Truft, I. 49	
v. Smith, Fine, V. 24	
Bovey v. Skipwick, Mortgage, - II. 21	2
, Deed, - IV. 18	
Bould v. Winston, Remainder, - II. 354, 379, 38	0
Bottomley v. Fairfax, Trusts, I. 49	6
Botetourt Barony, Case of, Dignities, III. 195, 250, 27	4
Boteler v. Allington, Trusts, - I. 54	Q.
Boscarriek v. Burton, Mortgage, 12	
Boraston's Case, Remainder, - II. 278, 29	5
Boothby v. Vernon, Curtefy, - I. 12	
Booth v. Booth, Mortgage, - II. 25	
Booth's Case, Estate for Years, - I. 25	•
, id	
Bonham v. Newcomb, Mortgage, II. 9	
Bond v. Seawell, id 5	
Bolton (Duke of) v. Williams, Devise, - VI. 7	_
Bolton v. Carlisle, id 37	
Bole v. Horton, Deed, - IV. 57, 6	
Bohun's Case, id 11	_
Bohun v. Burton, Fine, - V. 11	_
Boddam v. Riley, Mortgage, II. 19	
Boardman v. Mossman, Trusts, - 4 I. 55	
Paralament No Control of the Control	
Blunden v. Baugh, Estate at Will, - I. 27	
Winter, Jointure, - I. 22	
Blount v. Clarke, Private 18, 54	
Blount's Case, Recovery V. 39 Blount at Clarke Prints AS	_
Blodwell v. Edwards, Remainder - II. 30 Blownt's Cafe Persussan - V 20	
Blithman's Case, Dower, I. 14	
Blissett v. Cranwell, Devise, VI. 41	
Blewit's Case, Copyhold, I. 31 Blissett at Cranwell Devise - VI 41	•
Blenkarne v. Jennens, Fine, - V. 56	_
Blenco v. Marston, Tithes, - III. 7	
Blaxton v. Stone, Devise, - VI. 285, 28	•
Blany v. Mahon, Fine, V. 10	
Blandford v. Blandford, Joint Tenancy, - II. 50	-
Bland v. Bland, Devise, - VI. 17	_
Blanchet v. Blanchet, Title Deed, - Vol. IV. Page	_

	** · *** - '
Boycott v. Cotton, Title Deed,	Vol. IV. Page 232
Boynton v. Boynton, Dower, -	- I. 191
Brace v. Duchess of Marlborough, Mortga	ige, - IL 215
Bracebridge v Cook, Estate for Years,	I. 264
Bradbury v. Wright, Rents, -	- III. 310
Bradford v. Foley, Remainder, -	- II. 289
Bradnel v. Roberts, Deed, -	- IV. 69
Bradshaw v. Eyre, Common, -	- III. 115, 119
- v. Lawson, Copyhold, -	- 1. 386
Bradstock v. Scovel, Fine, -	- V. 143
Brady v. Cubit, Devise, -	VL 102, 104, 120
Bragg's Case, Copyhold, -	- l. 299
Bray & Frary, Estate for Life,	- 71 TV 000
Braybrocke v. Inskip, Devise,	- VI. 233
Brazier's Case, Fine, -	- V. 232
Brediman's Case, Reversion,	- II. 470
Bredon's Case, Fine,	- V. 204
Bree v. Holbeck, Deed,	- IV. 89
Brend v. Brend, Mortgage, -	- II. 142, 187
Brent's Case, Remainder, -	- 354, 374
Brett v. Rigden, Devise, -	- VI. 150
Brice v. Smith, id.	272
Brickley v. Brickley, Dower, -	- I. 164
Bridge's Case, Jointure, -	207
Bridges v. Chandos (D. of), Recovery,	- V. 297
- v. Edwards, Rents, -	- III. 333
Bridgewater v. Boulton, Devise, -	VI. 192, 245
Bridgman v. Dove, Mortgage, -	- II. 167
Brill v. Burford, Deed,	- IV. 203
Brind v. Brind, Fine,	- V. 158
Bristol v. Hungerford, Mortgage, -	- II. 243
Broderick v. Broderick, Devise,	- VI. 90
Brome (Sir J.)'s Case, Fine,	- VI. 95
Brook v. Biddulph, Recovery,	- V. 413
v. Gurney, Devise, -	- VI. 46, 220
	- II. 564, 565, 566
Brooks v. Brooks, Deed,	- IV. 431
Brotherton v. Hatt, Mortgage, -	- II. 249
Deed,	- IV. 358, 362
Broughton v. Errington, Jointure,	I. 235
	- VI. 165
v. Langley, Trusts,	- I. 462
-, Devije, -	- VI. 325
v. Randall, Dower,	I, 14 ²
Brown's Case, Alienation by Custom,	V. 571
Brown (Sir G.)'s Case, Recovery, -	- 407
	Brown

Danson of Table Wills W.		₹7~1 '₹7 ·	Dama Had
Brown v. Foster, Title Alienation	n by Calton,		Page 5.5
v. Gibbs, Trufts,	-		I. 531
v. Jervis, Devise,	-		VI. 270
v. Jones, Deed,	-	•	IV. 390
v. Raindle, Copyheld,	-		I. 334
v. Thomson, Devise,	-	- VI.	102, 104
- v. Waite, Effate Tail,	_		I. 52
Browning v. Wright, Deed,	-		IV. 81
Brownsword v. Edwards, Devis	_		504, 517
Brudenell v. Broughton, id.		•	71
Brudnell v. Elwes, Deed,	_		IV. 506
Bruerton v. Rainsford, Estate fa	r Years	_	_
	i Lears,		I. 249
Bruyn's (Sir J.) Case, Fine,			V. 104
Brydges v. Brydges, Recovery,	0 n ·		451
v. Chandos (Duchefs	•		115, 118
Buchannan v. Hamilton, Trusts			1. 558
Buck v. Nurton, Devife,	-		VI. 196
Buckeridge v. Ingram, Dower,	•	-	I. 147
Buckingham (Duke of)'s Case,	Offices,	-	III. 155
Buckley v. Nightingale, Fee Si		-	I. 21
Bucks v. Drury, Jointure,	_	•	202, 211
Buckworth v. Thirkill, Curtefy	•. •	•	117
, Dower		-	150
, 1) evise,		_	VI. 452
	_	_	
Buller v. Cheverton, Rents,	•	•	III. 337
v. Exeter (Ep.), Advouf	/// ₃	•	23
Waterhouse, Deed,	•	•	IV. 381
Bullock v. Bullock, Dewie,	- -	,	VI. 44
v. Dommett, Estate for	I eurs,	-	I. 257
v. Stones, Devise,	-	-	VI. 520
Bunker v. Cook, id.		• •	29
Bunting v. Lepingwell, Alienat	ion b, Custom	, -	V. 555
Burchet v. Durdant, Devise,	-	•	VI 185
Burdon v. Burdon, Dower,	•	-	I. 179
Burford v. Lec, Devise,	-	-	VI. 481
Burgess v. Wheate, Escheat,	•	- III.	498, 501
Burgh v. Francis, Mortgage,	-	-	II. 204
, Deed,	_	_	IV. 106
v. Langton, Merigage,	_	•	II. 255
Burley's Case, Devise,	_		VI. 285
	-	•	
Burnaby v. Grissin, id.	•	•	462
Burnett v. Kinaston, Morigage,	•	• •	II. 123
Burrell's Case, Deed,	· 👊		IV: 374
B' rtenshaw v. Gilbert, Devise,	-	- VI	. 100, 142
Bury v. Evans, Tithe:,	• `	•	III 77
	b	_	Busty
•		•	

Vol. VI. Page 343

I. 181

IV. 220

Busby v. Grunslate, Title Devise,

Bush's Case, Dower,

Rushell v Burland, Deed,

Addition of Dutizing, Deed,	•	•	14.220
Bushley's Case, Fine,	•	•	V. 94
Bustard's Case, Dower,	_	-	I. 152
Bute v. Steward, Devise,	-	-	VI. 179-
Butler and Baker's Case, id.	-	-	27, 28
Butler v. Monnings, Rents,	•	•	HI. 355
v. Swinerton, Deed,	_		
	•	•	IV. 85
v. Wigg, id.		•	166
Butt's Case, Estate for Years,	•	•••	I. 25.#
Byas v. Byas, Devise,		_	VI. 45
		•	
Byrte v. Manning, Advoussing,	-	•	HF. 34
•			
	C.	•	
Cadogan v. Konnett, Deed,	-	•	IV. 393
Cage v. Russell, Condition,	•	-	II. 46
Calcinete Cafe County	_		_
Calvin's Case, Curtesy,	-	•	I. 1·13
Camfield v. Gilbert,, Devise,	-		VI. 201
Campbell's Cafe, Rents,	•	••	III. 361
Campbell v. Walker, Trufts,	_	_	L 55‡
	_	_	
- v. Wilson, Ways,	•	•	III. 124
Cann v. Cann, King's Grant,	•	-	V. 584
Cannell v. Buckle, Deed,	-	•••	IV. 15
Canning v. Hicks, Jointure,	-	_	II: 197
Capel's Case, Recovery,	_		V. 451
	_	-	
Carden v. Tuck, Devife,	-	•	VI. 195
Cardigan (E. of) v. Montagu,	Deed,	-	IV. 320
Carew's Case, Copyhold;	-	•	I. 315
Carew v. Carew, Jointure,	_	_	_
•	_	-	224
Carleton v. Dorset, Deed,	•	- '	IV. 409
Carlton v. Griffin, Devise,	•	•	VI. 56
Carr v. Singer, Alienation by Cu	Aom.	→ 1.	V. 579
, Devise,	-	·	VI. 41
	,	~	
Carter v. Bernaditton, Remain	der	100 •	II. 443
, l'ine,	•	-	V. 86
, Recover	v	-	286, 472
Cartwright v. Pulteney, Joint		_	
		-	H. 534
Caruthers v. Caruthers, Josnius	······································	•	I. 200
Cashborn v. Inglis, Mirigage,	•,	• .	H. 127
Casson v. Dade, Devise,	• ,	•	VI. 62
Castle v. Dodd, Uses,	•	•	I. 455.
-utitio of model's olive	•	~ ·	aft's acre's
			all-incre s
	•		ن بچ. ن

Castleacre (Prior of)'s Case, Title P	rivate A&	. Vol. IV.	
	•		519, 520
Cavan v. Pulteney, Deed,	,	-	4-53
Chaddock v. Cowley, Remainder,		- ,	II 297
, Derije,	-	- VI.	271, 415
Chalk and Peter's Case, Private Asi		•	IV. 540
Challenger v. Shephard, Fine,	, 	•	V. 242
Challis v. Calborn, Mortgage,	_		II. 143
	_	_	VI. 44
Challoner v. Murhall, Alienation by L	Tultom.	_	V. 584
Cham v. Dover, Copyhold,	-	_	I. 321
Chamberlain v. Dummer, Estate fo	r Lite.	_	86
Chamberlayne v. Turner, Devise,	. <i>23.</i> 713	_	VI. 138
Champernoon v. Godelphin, Fine.		_	V. 223
Chaplin v. Chaplin, Rents,		111 240	341, 343
	_	712- 340,	V. 440
	_	_	II. 194
Changan's Case Desiste	_	_	VI. 284
Chapman's Case, Devise, Chapman v. Bacon, Recovery,	_	-	V. 412
	_	_	
v. Blislett, Trusts,		_	1. 463
·	_	_	II 329 VI. 518
, Devise, v. Brown, id.	_	_	
v. Emery, Deed,	·	īv	291 379, 384
v. Gibson, Desife,	<i>,</i>		VI. 43
v. Hart, id.		_	, 211
v Sharpe, Copybold,	_	-	1. 330
v Tanner, Mortgage,		_	II. 193
Charlton's (Sir B.) Case, Estate for	Life.	•	I. 82
Cheney v. Hall, Recovery,	-	_	V. 486
Chester v. Chester, Devise,			204, 220
v. l'ainter, id.	•	•	3 20
- w. Willan, Joint Tenancy,	•	-	II. 527
Chestersield's Case, Recovery,	•	-	V. 496
Chesterfield v. Cromwell, Marigage		-	II. 193
v. Bolton, Estate for L		-	1. 79
Chevall v. Nicholis, Daed, -	<i>)</i>	- IV.	355, 361
Child v. Bayly, Devise, -		¥1 8 2.	485, 534
Chelmeley's Case, Kemainder,	- 1	-	II. 279
Ci o meley v. Humble, id.	~	•	305
Chelmley's Case, Recovery,	•	\mathbf{v} .	451, 503
Cholmondeley's Case, Remainder,		•	II. 410
Christopher v, Christopher, Desife,		-	V1. 101
Chudleigh's Case, Remainder,	•	Vol. II	Page 372
b 2	2		Church

Church v. Wyat, Title Alienation by Cuffern,	•	V. 573
		270, 414
Clache's Case, Devise,		II. 152
Clapham v. Boyer, Mortgage, -		
Clare v. Clare, Devise, -		VI. 497
Clarendon v. Hornby, Tenancy in Common,	-	II. 563
Clark v. Smith, Devise,	VI, 1452	455, 519
Clarke v. Abbot, id	•	232
	_	III. 124
v Cogge, Ways,	7	
v. Day, Devise, -	•	VI. 355
Clarkson v. Woodhouse, Common,	•	III. 110
Claston v. Claston, Fstate for Life,	.	1. 76
Clayton v. Cookes, Copyhold,	•	373
	-	VI. 21
Cleer v. Peacock, Devise,	III.	
Clements v. Scudamore, Descent,		
Clere's Case, Deed,	IV. 257,	270, 315
Clere's (Sir Edward) Case, Uses,	•	- I. 443
	-	II. 441
Clere and Brook, Descent, -	III. 428.	429, 430
		II. 27
Clerk v. Lucy, Estate Toil,	_	_ *
- v. Turner, Joint Tenancy, -	•	524
Clifford v. Ashley, Fine, -	-	V . 159
Clissord Barony, Case of, Dignities,	-	III. 2cg
Cliston Barony, Case of, id	•	203
Ciinton v. Hooper, Mortgage, -	-	II. 187
Clishans Frontilin Progress	•	V. 439
Clitheroe v. Franklin, Recovery,	•	
Clough v. Clough, Decd,	₩	IV. 18
Clum's Case, Renks,	-	III. 325
, Alienation by Custom,	•	V. 572
Clyatt v. Battison, Mortgage, -	•	II. 188
Clymer v. Littler, Devise, -	•	VI. 157
	_	V. 228
Cockman v Farrer, Fine,	_	II. 311
Cogan v. Cogan, Remainder, -	_	, •
Coke v. Bullock, Devise, -	•	VI. 125
Cole v. Levingston, Deed,	•	IV. 462
		VI. 416
v. Rawlinson, id		240
Colcl rook v. Elliot, Franckise, -	•	III. 279
	_	V. 246
Coleby v. Smith, Line,		II. 144
Cole man v. Wince, Azortgage,	•	
Collier's Case, Devise, -	•	VI. 254
Collingwood v. Pace, Descent,	• ·	111 381
Collins v. Goodall, Prescription, -	• .	563
- v. Plummer, Kecovery,	-	V. 456
	_	VI. 50}
Collinson v. Wright, Deuffe,		Collyer
		Forle

Collyer v. Howse, Title Tithes,		Vol. III.	Page 59
Colt v. Colt, Trufts,			I. 495
Colthurst v. Bejushin, Remainder,			77
Colton v. Wilson, Devise,		_	VI. 76
Combe's Case, Alienation by Custom,	_		V. 536
Comber v. Hill, Devise, -			124, 426
Common v. Marshall, Deed,	•	- 410, .	IV. 311
Compton v. Collison, Alienation by	Cultom	_	V. 538
	- -		I. 365
Comiby v. Rushy, Copyhold,	_		IV. 69
Congham v. King, Deed,	_		II. 156
Conway v Shrimpton, Mortgage,	_		
Cook v. Cook, Joint Tenancy,	-		II. 513
, Devife; -	•		186, 307
v. Fountain, Uses,	•		1. 434
v. Parsons, Devise,	- D. MUI:4		I. 64, 65
- v. Whaley, Estate Tril ofter	Pofficility,		1. 102
v. Winford, Jointure,	-	•	209
Cooke v. Gerrard, Devise,	•	•	VI. 221
v. Gwavas, Mortgage,	•	•	II. 168
Cooper v. Marthall, Common,	•	-	III. 106
Coot v. Berry, Dower,		•	I. 178
Coots v. Lambert, id.	•	•	162
Cope v. Cope, Mortgage,	•	•	II. 166
Copland v. Platt, Recovery,	•	•	V. 402
Coppin v. Coppin, Devise,	•	-	VI 73
Coppinger v. Keating, Goparcenary,		-	II. 541
Tenancy in C	lommon,	•	559
Corbet's Case, Remainder,	-	•	305
————— Common,		•	397
Recovery,	*	•	V. 453
Corbet v. Stone, Remainder,	-	-	II. 325
-, Fine,	- .	V.	165. 2:2
v. Tichburn, id.	-	•	II. 322
Corbett (Sir A.)'s Case, Estate for	Life,	-	I. 62
, Estate for	Years,	•	245
Cornell v. Sykes, in ortgage,,	· - '	-	II. 154
Corfellis v. Correllis, Dower,	, -	•	l. 169
Cother v. Merrick, Rents,		•	- III. 319
Cotter v. Layer, Deed,	, <u>-</u>		IV. 328
, Levise, -	_		VI 107
Cotterel v. Purchase, ortgage,	-	•	II. 96
Cottingham v. King, Recovery,	-	•	V. 389
Cotton's Case, Fine,	:	•	93
Cotton v. Baylie, id.	-	-	29,
v. Heath, Bevise,		VI.	478, 480
	* ~	• *	Cotten

Cotton v. Tyrrell, Title Fine,	_	Vol V	. Page 20
	_		
Cottre!l v. Hampson, Trusts,	-	•	1. 548
Coulson v. Coulson, Devise,	•	VI. 326,	348, 301
Cousin's Case, Fine, -	-	-	
Coventry v. Coventry, Mortgage.			II. 177
, Deed,	•	- IV.	3-5-325
Cowper v. Andrews, Prescription,		•	III. 525
v. Clerk, Copyhold,	_		I 28.
		-	
v. Franklin, Uses,	-	•	424, 420
Cox v. Chamberlain, eeed,	•		241, 275
v. Higford, Copyheld,	_		Ι. 384
	•		37
Craghill v Patrison, Fine,	-	•	V. 115
Cranmer's Case, ! ecd, -	•	, •	IV. 478
Crawley's Case, Uses, -		_	- I. 427
Crawley v. Wells, Tithes,	_		III. 58
	_		~~
Creditors of Sir C. Cox, Mertgag		-	_
Crewe v. Dicken, Trusts,	•	-	I. 545 '
Crickmer's Case, Devise,	•	>	VI. 425
Crispe v. Heath, Mortgage,	_	_	II. 141
	_		_
v. Trur, Estate for Years,		•	I. 275
Croft v. Howell, Fine,		•	V. 151
v. l'owlet, Levise,	-	•	I. 63
- v. Powell, Mortgage,	-	-	II. 94
Cromwell's Case, Fine,			V. 168
	•	T 77	
Cromwell v. Grunsden, Deed,	-	- 14	34, 166
Cross v. Hudson, id.	•	1	275, 331
Cross and Grey, Recovery,	•	•	V. 416
Crossing v. Scudamore, Deed,	-	- IV.	178, 186
Crossly v. Clare, Devise,	•	-	VI. 188
Crouch v. Freir, Titkes,		_	III. 74
	_		
Croucher v. Collins, id.	- '	7	61
Crow v. Stoddart, id		•	64
Crowther v. Oldfield, Copyhold,	-	•	I. 296
Crusoe v. Bugby, Condition,	-	-	11. 13
Cudleys v. Rundle, Estate at Will,		_	_
		_	1. 270
Cudmore v. Raven, Copyhold,		•	381
Cullingford v. De Cardonnel, Offi	ces,	•	III. 163
Culpepper v. Aston, Trusts,	-	-	I. 544
Cumberford's Case, Deed,	**	IV. 295,	
Cumberland's Case, Estate for Lise	•		I. 65
Cumscriand's Care, Litate for Life	•	_	
Cunlisse v. Cunlisse, Devise,	-	-	VI. 176
Cunningham v. Moody, Curtefy,	-	-	I. 12I
, Deed,	•	IV.	241, 244
Cuppeldike's Cafe, Recovery,	-	V. 446.	449, 450
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Curle's Case, Offices,	,	-	III. 14;
Curteis v. Wolverston, Devise,	• •-	85	VI. ∠2)
•			Curwe:

Curwen v. Salkeld, Title Franchise,	-	Vol. II	I. Page 288
Cury v. Askew, Devise, -	•	•	VI. 75
Curzon v. Blackall, Deed, -		•	IV. 376
Cufack v. Cufack, id	-	-	482
Cutting v. Derby, Remainder,	-		I. 286

D.

D. C. C. C. Dimities	111 102
Dacre Barony, Case of, Dignities,	M 193
	VI. 222
Dalston v. Reeve, Rents,	III. 313
	356, 374
	II. 2#
	V. 179
Danby v. Read, Mortgage,	II. 89
Darbison v. Beaumont, Devise,	VI. 185
Darcy v. Jackson, Recovery,	V. 356
Darell v. Bridge, Franchise,	III. 302
Darey v. Hall, Mortgage,	II. 213 '
Darley v. Langworthy, Devise,	VI. 113
Darlington v. Pulteney, Deed, -	IV. 252
Davenport v. Oldis, Devise, - VI. 417, 421, 424,	425, 427
— v. Tyrrell, Coparcenary,	II. 539
Davie v. Stephens, Devise,	VI. 281
	I. 450
	349, 442
	IV. 497
	II. 393.
Davis v. Gibbs, Devise, - VI.	
v. Norton, Remainder,	IÍ. 291
Day v. Hungate, Fine,	V. 245
v. Trig, Devise,	VI. 190
Dayrell v. Champneys, Remainder, -	II. 413
Dean v. Miller, Devise,	VI. 258
v. Tidmarsh, Fine,	V. 74
	IV. 258
Drg v. Deg, Deed,	II. 79
Deighton v. Grenville, Estate by Statute,	167, 184
Delawarre (Lord's) Case, Dignities, -	III. 235
Dench v. Brampton, Copyhold,	1. 326
De Grey v. Richardson, Cuetesy, -	
•	Denne

Denn v. Lord Abingdon, Title Estate by Statute,	<i>ઉ℃.</i>		
	ol. II.	Page	67
	-		
	. 309,		•
v. Gillot, Deed,		IV.	
- v. Mellor, Devise, -		VI.	
v. Page, id			
v. Puckey, id	_	3	•
v. Shenton, id	_		294
4.4	_		274 • 86
v. Spray, Descent,			
Dennis v. Loving, Offices,	•	III. 4	•
Derby (Lord's) Case, Remainder,		I TT o	-
Recovery, -	-	П. 2	_
Derisley v. Custance, Deed,	-	V. 3	-
Derwentwater (Lord's) Colo Parairda		IV.	
Derwentwater (Lord's) Case, Remainder, Dettrick v. Bradburn, Rents,	-		-
Dichy a Legard Touts	-	III. 3	_
Digby v. Legard, Trusts,	- T\$7	I. 4	_
	IV.		
Dillon at Lorent Ein			
Dillon v. Leman, Fine,		V. 1	
Dister v. Dister, Devise,	V 1.	111, 1	
Dixon v. Lawfon, Fine,	-	V. 1	
v. Robinson, Franchise,	•	III a	
- 4. Saville, Mortgage,	-	II. 1	_
Dodson v. Hay, Curtesy,	- .	I. 1	
Doe v. Allen, Devise,	VI.	150, 3	_
v. Applin, id	-	7	293
v. Archer, Decd,	•	IV. 1	
- v. Balten, Estate at Will,	-	I. 2	275
v. Bell, id.	-		277
v. Burnfall, Devise,	-	VI. 3	358
v. Burt, Deed, -	. 🕶	IV.	43
- v. Burville, Devise, -	-	VI.	418
v. Butcher, Deed,	,	IV.	133
v. Calvert, id.	-		301
v. Carleton, Devise,	-	VI.	518
v. Carter, Condition,	• .	11.	17
	-		65
v. Cavan (Lady), Deed,	-	IV.	294
v. Cavendish (Lord G.) id.			271
v. Chapman, Devise,	VI.	193, 2	
v. Clare, Copyhold, -	-	I. 3	366
v. Clarke, Devise,		VI.	16
v. Collings, id.	•	_1	196

To Wal VI a	-9
Doe v. Collis, Title Devise, - Vol. VI. 3	_
v. Cooper. id 295, 4	.17
	39
v. Denny, Deed, IV. 3	
— v. Flydes, Devise, - VI. 159, 269, 2	00
v. Fonnereau, Remainder, - II. 3	
, Deed, IV. 4	.79
- v. Halcombe, id 303, 3	13
- v. Hellier, Fine, V. 2	
0, 220-2500,	•
#17	
,	
- v. Holm, Recovery, - V. 4	
v. Ironmonger, Devise, V1. 1	
v. Jones, Rents, III. 3	76
	-
v. Keen, Descent, III. 4	
- v. Kersey, Devise, VI.	67
	55
v. Laming, id 346, 3	
0,	-
**	_
WPT .	
v. Lyde, Devise, VI. 478, 4	
- v. Luxton, Estate for Life, - L	_
v. Martin, Remainder, Il. 3	5 I
, Deed, IV. 343, 441, 4	52
- v. Mason, Descent, III. 4	
777	
777	
v. Milborne, Deed, IV. 2	
v. Morgan, Remainder, 41. 321, ?	
, Descent, 111. 4	78
Alienation by Custom, V. 5	52
	_
	_
	• •
v. Parratt, Joint-tenancy, II. 5	
v. Pegg, Trufts, I. 5	
v. Perrin, Remainder, - II. 2	83
v. Porter, Estate at Will, - I. 2	78
477	
	_
- v. Prosser, Tenancy in Common, - II. 553, 5	_
Us accused a second sec	86
v. Richards, Devise, - VI. 255, 317, 3	18
v. Rivers, Estate Tail, I.	48.
	19
T)oe

	ol. V. 148
	VI 276
	384, 405
•	- 187
	204, 321
	II. 292
v. Simpson, Perd,	_
— v. Smith, Devise, VI.	294, 296
- v. Snowden, Estate at Will,	
	I. 537
, Deed,	
	VI. 105
v. Sybourne, Trufts,	
	V. 582
v. Wainwright, Deed,	IV. 459
	_ 3 ² 3
	I. 277
——————————————————————————————————————	IV. 132
- v. Wetton, Devise,	VI. 443
- v. Wharton, Estate by Statute, &c	
v. Whitehead, Fine, V.	171, 235
- v. Whichelo, Devise,	VI. 277
- v. Williams, Deed,	IV. 44
	V. 86
- v. Worstey, Deed,	IV. 463
	V. 552
Devise,	VI. 42
Done v. Smethier and Leigh, Fine,	V. 15
Dormer v: Thurland, Deed,	VI. 251
	281, 533
Dormer's Case, id	277, 390
	IV. 46
_	I. 221
Donnell as Sandone Description	
Dowell v. Sanders, Prescription,	III. 532
	V. 112
	IV. 207
	V. 112
Downes v. Savage, id	71
Dowse v. Derival, Trusts,	I. 510
Drave a Rebinfor David	V. 415
Drake v. Robinson, Devise,	Vi. 43
	II. 200
Draper's Company v. Yardley, Fine, -	V. 248
Driver v. Edgar, Recovery,	V. 469
	Driver

NAMES OF CASES.
Driver v. Lawrence, Title Fine, - Vol. V. Page 150 v. Huffey, Coparcenary, - II. 542
Drury v. Kent, Common, III. 96
Dubber v. Trollop, Devise, - VI. 333
Duberley v Page, Common, III. 109
Dudley v. Folliott, Deed, IV. 79
of Mantague a Danulian 'id
Down and O. C.
Dunch v. Kent, Trusts, I. 542
Dunn v. Green, Alienation by Custom, - V. 582
Duplessis v. Attorney General, Fee Simple, - I. 11
Durnford v. Lane, Deed, IV. 17
Duroure (Doe ex Dem.) v. Jones, Fine, - V. 192
Dutton v. Engram, Devise, VI. 271
Dymock's Case, Deed, - IV. 183
Dymoke v. Hobart, Advowson, - III. 12
E.
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, V. 421, 435, 437
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, - V. 421, 435, 437 Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, - I. 230
Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, Descent, V. 421, 435, 437 II. 230
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, Descent, Laton v. Jacques, Mortgage, - V. 421, 435, 437 II. 230 III. 388
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, Descent, Laton v. Jacques, Mortgage, Ebrand v. Dancer, Trusts, V. 421, 435, 437 II. 230 III. 388 III. 114 III. 483
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, Descent, Eaton v. Jacques, Mortgage, Ebrand v. Dancer, Trusts, Edmunds v. Povey, Mortgage, II. 209
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, Descent, Eaton v. Jacques, Mortgage, Ebrand v. Dancer, Trusts, Edmunds v. Povey, Mortgage, Edwards v. Freeman, id. V. 421, 435, 437 I. 230 II. 230 III. 388 II. 114 II. 209 II. 209 II. 209
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, Descent, Laton v. Jacques, Mortgage, Ebrand v. Dancer, Trusts, Edmunds v. Povey, Mortgage, Edwards v. Freeman, id. v. Hammond, Condition,
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, Descent, Lago III. 388 Eaton v. Jacques, Mortgage, Ebrand v. Dancer, Trusts, Edmunds v. Povey, Mortgage, Edwards v. Freeman, id. v. Hammond, Condition, v. Lord Vernon, Common, III. 86
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, Descent, Descent, III. 388 Eaton v. Jacques, Mortgage, Ebrand v. Dancer, Trusts, Edmunds v. Povey, Mortgage, II. 114 Edwards v. Freeman, id. v. Hammond, Condition, v. Lord Vernon, Common, v. Rogers, Fine, V. 421, 435, 437 III. 230 III. 388 III. 230 III. 388 III. 209 III. 209 III. 86
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, Descent, Lago III. 388 Eaton v. Jacques, Mortgage, Ebrand v. Dancer, Trust, Edmunds v. Povey, Mortgage, Edwards v. Freeman, id. v. Hammond, Condition, v. Lord Vernon, Common, v. Rogers, Fine, v. Slater, id. V. 421, 435, 437 II. 230 III. 388 III. 144 III. 209 III. 209 III. 86
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, - V. 421, 435, 437 Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, - I. 230 ———————————————————————————————————
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, - V. 421, 435, 437 Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, - I. 230 ———————————————————————————————————
Eare v. Snow, Recovery, - V. 421, 435, 437 Eastwood v. Vincke, Jointure, - I. 230 ———————————————————————————————————

I. 547 II. 123

I. 556

VI. 443

III. 94

Endsworth

III. 162

VI. 54, 91

Elliott v. Merryman, Trufts, Ellis v. Guavas, Mortgage,

Emerson v. Selby, Commons,

- v. Read, Offices,

- v. Smith, Devise,

Ellison v. Ayrey, Trusts,

Endsworth v. Griffith, Title Estate by S	Statute. Esc.
midiwords of Chimidis, Thus Lyther by	Vol. II. Page 97
Englefield's Case, Deed, -	- VI. 340
Erish v. Rives, Alienation by Custom,	V. 537
Ersfield's Cafe, Fine,	29
Eton College v. Beauchamp and Biggs,	
Eton (Provost of) v. Winton (Ep.) Pri	
Evans v. Astley, Devise,	- VI. 285
Evelyn v. Evelyn, Mortgage, -	- IL 179
v. Templar, Deed, -	- PV . 38e
Ever v. Aston, Copyhold, -	- · - I 336
Everall v. Smalley, Alienation by Custom,	
Eustace v. Scawen, Fine, -	200
, Joint Tenancy,	- H 527
Eustaces v. Knightley, Jointure,	- I. 222:
Ewer v. Corbett, Trusts, -	- 5.44, 546
- v. Hayden, Devise, -	VI. 191
Exeter (Ep.) v. Hale, Advowson,	- III. 18
Exton v. Greaves, Mortgage, -	II. 93.
Eyres v. Faulkland, Devise, -	VI. 267
Eyston v. Studd, Recovery,	V. 403
Eyton v. Eyton, Deed,	IV. 12
Fine,	- V. 107
j 1 meg	4.10k
F.	
	•
Fairclaim v. Shackleton, Tenancy in Com	men, - H. 552, 558
Fairfax v. Heron, Devise,	VI. 446
Falkland v. Lytton, id	223
Fanshaw's Cafe, Deed, -	IV. 36
Fareley's Case, Copyhold, -	I. 332
Farmer's Case, Fine,	- V. 18, 25
Farmer v. Rogers, Deed,	- IV. 27, 157.
- v. Wise, Devise, -	VI, 250
Faveley v. Easton, Fine, -	- V. 105
Fawcett v. Lowther, Copybold, -	- I. 31Î
, Alienation by Cufton	
, v. Strickland, Common, -	M. 110
Fawlkener v. Fawlkener, Devise,	- VI. 184
Fazakerly et Balda Fine	- V 228

Fazakerly v. Baldo, Fine, Fenton v. Foster, Devise,

Fermor's Case, Remainder,

Fine,

V. 228

VL 266

II. 428 V. 181

Ferrers

Ferrers v. Fermor, Title Uses, - Vol. III. Page 433
, Recovery, V. 303
v. Ferrers, id 515
Finch's Case, Fine, 103
Finch v. E. of Winchelsea, Tithes, III. 72
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
- v. Throgmorton, Deed, - IV. 135
Fines, Case of, Fine, V. 136, 146
Fish v. Brockett, id 39
Fisher v. Forbes, Jointure, I. 209
v. Wigg, Deed, - IV. 453, 459
- Alienation by Custom, V. 556
Fitchett v. Adams, Condition, II. 33, 49
Fitshurst's Case, Fine, V. 232
Fitzgerald v. Fauconberg, Deed, - IV. 262, 368
v. Leslie, Devise, - VI. 274
Fitzwalter Barony, Case of, Dignities, - III. 237
Flavel v. Ventrice, Dower, I. 155
Fleetwood's Case, Estate for Years, - 256
Fleetwood v. Calendar, Fine, - V. 76
v. Templeman, Deed, IV. 219
Fletcher's Case, Devise, VI. 486
Fletcher v. Smiton, id 249
Flower v. Baldwin, Deed, IV. 183
Floyer v. Levington, Mortgage, II. 99
Focus v. Salisbury, Fine, V. 165
Foley v. Burnell, Estate for Years, - I. 263
Folkard v. Hemmett, Common, III. 106
Forbes v. Ross, Alienation by Custom, V. 551
Forbes (Lord) v. Deniston, Deed, - IV. 358, 361
Ford v. Grey, Prescription, III. 550, 555
v. Grey (Lord), Fine, - V. 217
Forder v. Wade, Trusts, I. 500
Forrester v. Leigh, Mortgage, II. 185
Forse v. Hembling, Devise, VI. 105
Forsel v. Welsh, Alienation by Custom, - V. 541
Forster v. Pollington, Fine, 114
Fortesque v. Abbot, Mortgage, II. 297
Forth v. Chapman, Devise, - VI. 490
Foster's Case, Prescription, 562
Foster v. Cook, Dower, I. 185
, Descent, III. 74
- VI. 436
Foster

Foster v. Mapes, Title Deed, -	Vol. IV. Page 80
v. Pitfall, Recovery, -	- V. 404
v. Spooner, Fstate Tail, -	- I. 64
Fotherby v. Hartridge, Prescription,	- III. 567
Fothergill v. Fothergill, Jointure, -	- L 223
Fowler v. Ongley, Devife, -	- VI. 405
- v. Sanders, Prescription, -	- III. 531
- v. Seagrave, Franchise, -	- 296
Fox's Cafe, Deed,	IV. 173, 178
Fox v. Prickwood, id.	- 306
v. Swan, Condition,	- II. 11, 12
Foxley's Case, Franchise,	- III. 279
Foy v. Hinde, Remainder,	- II. 307
Freake v. Lee, Devise,	- VI. 255
Freeman v. Barnes, Fine, -	- V. 166
- v. Chandos (D. of) Devise, -	VL 204, 224
- v. Freeman, Condition, -	- II. 10
v. West, Deed, -	- IV. 117
French v. Davis, Trusts, -	- I. 55i
French's Case, Copyhold, -	- 304
Freshwater v. Rois, Recovery,	- V. 443
Frogmorton v. Holiday, Devise, -	- VI. 244
v. Wharrey, Alienation by Custo	m, - V. 564
v. Wright, Devise, -	- VI. 244
Fronton v. Small, Deed,	- IV. 28
Frost v. Wolverton, id	225
Froud v. Green, Recovery, -	- V. 29}
Frurin v. Charleton, Remainder, -	- IL 390
Fry, (Lady Ann)'s Cafe, id.	- 316
Fry, v. Porter, Condition, -	20
Fuller v. Fuller, Devise, -	VI. 151
Furse v. Weiks, id	- 405

G

Gage's Case, Fine,	V. 109
Gainsford v. Griffith, Deed,	IV. 8t
Gale v. Noble, Copyhold;	I. 296
Gally v. Selby, Advowson,	III. 26
Galton v. Hancock, Mortgage,	II. 171
	VI. 126
Gardener v. Norman, Copyhold, -	I. 374
•	Gardner

Gardner v. Sheldon, Title Devise,	Vol.	VI. Page	182, 283
Garland v. Thomas, id	-		412
Garrett v. Blizard, Fine, -	-	-	V. 203
Garrett v. Evers, Mortgage,			II. 123
Garth v. Baldwin, Devise, -	-	VI.	338, 378
v. Cotton, Estate for Life,	-		I. 74, 78
, Remainder,	-		381, 402
, Devise, -	-	-	VI. 20
Garlside v. Radcliffe, Recovery,	•	-	V. 301
Gascoing v. Theving, Trusk,	•		I. 473
Gate v. Wiseman, Dower, -	•	-	173
Gawen v. Ramtes, Devise, -	-	=	VI. 20
Gay v. Kay, Copyhold, -	-	- I.	301, 315
George v. —, Devise, -	-		VI. 37
Gerard v. Gerard, Dignities, -	•	•	III. 220
, Dower, -	•	•	I. 154
Gibbons v. Stephenson, Recovery,	•		V. 350
Gibson v. Montfort, Devise,	•	-	VI. 264
v. Rogers, id	-	•	132, 545
v. Smith, Estate for Life,	•	•	I. 72
Gifford v. Barber, Reversion,	•		II. 490
Gilbert v. Emerton, Prescription,	•	•	III. 567
- v. Witty, Devise, -	•	•	VI. 415
Giles v. Hooper, Deed, -		•	IV. 66
Ginger v. White, Devise, -	-	-	VI. 345
Girling v. Lee, Mortgage, -	-	-	II. 140
Glascock's Case, Copyhold, -	-	-	I. 325
Glegg v. Glegg, Jointure,	-	•	222
Glenorchy v. Bosville, Devise,	•	VI. 274.	376, 383
Glover v. Archer, Rents, -	•		III. 325
v. Lane, Common,			111
v. Spendlove, Devise,	-	_	VI. 224
Goburn v. Wright, Fine,		_	V. 73
Godbolt's Case, Offices, -	_	_	111 162
Godbolt v. Freestone, Descent,	_	•	III. 162
	-	•	402
Goddard's Case, Deed, -	-	-	IV. 28
Goddard v Complin, Recovery,	•	•	V. 485
Godfrey v. Wade, Fine,	ب . دما .		142
v. Watson, Estate by Statut	e, ec.	-	II. 78
Cadalahin Banah D	-	• '	214
Godolphin v. Penneck, Devise,	-	• `	VI. 431
v. Tudor, Offices,	•	-	III. 163
Godwyn v. Godwyn, Devise,	- 1	•	VI. 224
Goodail's Case, Mortgage,	•		II. 83
Goodill v. Brigham, Deed,	•	IV. 21,	240, 279
•			Goodin

•	
Goodin v. Clark, Title Deed, - V	ol. IV. Page 503
Goodrick v. Brown, Fine,	- VI. 464 - V. 250
	- 159
Goodright v. Allen, Devise,	- VI. 269
- v. Billington, Recovery,	- V. 472
	• •
v. Board and Jones, Fine,	- 214 TV - 24
v. Cator, Decd,	- IV. 285
	- II. 321
v. David's, Deed,	- IV. 137
- v. Dunham, Remainder, -	- II. 283
- , Recovery, -	- V. 472
Devise,	- VI. 345
v. Glazier, id	- 141
v. Goodright, id	- 283
v. Harwood, id.	- 83
- v. Humphries, Deed, -	- IV. 134
v. Mead and Shilson, Recovery,	
v. Moses, Deed,	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	IV. 378, 384
v. Pullyn, Devise,	VI. 333, 354
- v. Rigby, Recovery,	- V. 335
	- III. 374
- v. Searle, Devise, -	- VI. 523
v. Shales, Trufts, -	- I. 512
v. Stocker, Devise, -	- VI. 263
a. Camanham Dad	- IV. 21
*** 11	III. 399
	- VI. 186
A IC D. C. II D. C. IV.	- III. 528
Goodtitle v. Bailey, Deed, -	- IV. 421
v. Billington, Remainder, -	- II. 313
(ex Dem. Bridges) v. Chandos (D.	
	-, Recovery, 513
	7. 300, 318, 321
v. Herring, Devise, -	- VI. 347
v. Jones, Prescription, -	- L 538
v. Maddern, Devise, -	- VI. 257
v. Morgan, Mortgage,	II. 202, 229
v. Moyse, Alienation by Custom,	
	III. 386, 411
	7, 116, 119, 239
v. Pagden, id	
v. Petto, Deed,	IV. 190
v. Stokes, id.	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	• 42 6
v. Wadhold, Devise,	VI. 300
	Goodtitle

			•
Goodtitle v. Weal, Title Deed,	•	Vol. IV.	Page 269
- v. Whitby, Mortgoge,	. 🚗		II. 298
v. Woodhull, Devise,	•	_ •	VI. 345
Goodwin v. Goodwin, Deed,	-	•	IV. 406
- v. Kilshaw, Devise,	•	-	VI. 76
v. Winsmore, Trusts,		_	I. 499
Gordon v. Graham, Fine,	•		V. 210
Gore v. Gore, Devise,		VI 450	
- v. Perdue, Dower, -	_		501, 519
Gosling v. Warburton, id.	. .	_	I. 167
Gossage en Taylor, Deed,	_		- 181 W 440
Grafton v. Horton, Copyhold,	•	_	IV. 448
Grandison v. Pitt, Jointure,		, -	I. 298
Grant's Case, Tithes,	_	_	240 TIT 90
, Fine,		_	III. 89
Grant v. Astle, Copyhold,		T	V141
Grantham v. Copley, Alienation by	Cuffam	4.	355, 356
Grayson v. Atkinson, Devise,	aujiviis		V. 570
Gree v. Rolle, Prescription,	_	- A 1	. 52, 251
Green v. Armstead, Devise,	_	-	V. 550
v. Austin, Tithes,	_	•	VI. 238
v. Froud, Recovery,	_	-	III. 68
v. King, Joint Tenancy,	_	_	V. 290
v. Prouder, Devise,	_	•	II. 510
Greene v. Horne, Deed,		• .	VI. 157
Greenhill v. Greenhill, Devise,	_	•	IV. 65
Gregory v. Croucher, Fine,		•	VI. 31
Greneley's Case, Recovery,	•	•	V. 21
Greswold v. Marsham, Mortgage,	•	•	408
Grey's Case, Descent,		-	II. 121
Grey v. Grey, Trusts,		_	III. 379
Grey of Ruthyn Barony, Case of,	Diamities	111	I. 478
Griffin's Case, id.	Digitales	711.	236, 244
Grissin v. Ferrers, Fine,		_	25I
v. Stanhope, Deed, -	-	_	V. 79
Recovery,	_	- -	IV. 388
Grissith (Sarah)'s Case, Fine,	,	_	V. 283
Grissith v. Harrison, Deed,	_	_	1V 272
Grissiths v. Vere, Devise,	_	_	IV. 273
Grimstone v. Lord Bruce, Condition	T	_	VI. 570
Grymes v. Peacock, Mortgage,	-	•	II. 47
Guavara's Case, Curtesy,		•	II. 117
Gulliver v. Wicket, Devise,	_ 1	VT 440	I. 111
Gurnell v. Wood, id.	_	VI. 443,	-
Guy v. Dormer, Deed,			173, 5 53
			IV. 258
			Gwynne

Gwynne v. Heaton, Title	e Deed,	-	Aor IA.	Page 401
, Dev	rife, -		• .	VI. 535
Gynes v. Kinnesley, id.	•	• .	•	183
•				

H.

	*
Habergham v. Vincent, Devise,	VI. 70, 72, 157, 465
Hadeson v. Gryssel, Common, -	- III. 1c6
Haines v. Haines, Devise, -	- VI. 94
Hale v, Descent, -	III. 106
Hales v. Rifley, Remainder, -	- II. 409
Hall v. Dunch, Devise, -	VL 124
- v. Woodcock, Recovery,	V. 509
Hallelay v. Kirtland, Mortgage,	- II. 143
Hallet v. Saunders, Recovery, -	- V. 447
Halton v. Hassell, Copyhold, -	- I. 356
v. E. of Thanet, Jeint Tenancy,	- II. 534
	562
Hamel v. Hunt, Deed,	- IV- 453
Hamilton v. Mohun, Dower, -	- I. 171
- v. Mordaunt, Deed, -	- IV. 216
Hamington v. Rudyard, Devise,	- VI. 479
Hammond v. Willibank, Copykold,	- I. 367
Hanbury v. Cockerill, Devise, -	- VI. 442
Hands v. James, id.	62
Hanmer v. Eyten, Fine, -	V. 164
Hannam v. Woodford, Estate by Statut	
Harcourt v. Fox, Offices,	III. 143
v. Pole, Rents, -	- 322
Hardacre v. Nash, Devise, -	VI. 197
Harding v. Glynn, id.	179
Hardwin v. Warner, Decd, -	- IV. 341
Hardy v. Reeves, Mortgage, -	- II. 121
Hare (Goodright ex Dem.) v. Board a	
Harkness v. Bayley, Devise, -	- VI. 125
Harland v. Trigg, id	- 178
Harrington's Case, Deed, -	- IV. 221
Harrington v. Du Chatel, Offices,	III. 164
v. Smith, Recovery,	- V. 405
Harris v. Barnes, Devse, -	- VI. 518
v. Jay, Copyhold, -	- I. 304
v. Ingledew, Devise, -	- VI. 430
v. Lincoln (Ep.), id.	- 165
At writingers (which are	Harrison's
•	, provide a section

er in a committee that the	
Harrison's Case, Title Franchise, - Vol. III. Page	
Harrison v. Austin, Deed, - IV	
- v. Belsey, Remainder, - II	. 364
v. Evans, Offices, III	. 159
v. Harrison, Devise, - VI. 54, 532	• •
Hart v. Middlehurst, Deed, - IV	
Hari's Case, Fine, V	• •
Harton v. Hare. Trusts, I	•
Hartpole v. Walsh, Mortgage, - II	
	139
v. Hartwell, Offices, III	. 165
Harvey v. Ashley, Deed, IV	. 17
_	I. 22
- v. Montague, Reversion,	470
Harwell v. Lucas, Remainder,	
	355
•	. \65
	. 191
	431
Havergill v. Hare, Rents, III	332
Hawe v. Barton, Devise, VI	. 15
Hawes v. Hawes, id	407
v. Wyatt, id	. 121
	. 98
	248
	•
	. 238
<u> </u>	177
	. 504
	. 311
	. 59
v. Ford, Devise, VI. 159	
Hayner v. Hayner, Jointure, - I	
Hayter v. Rod, Estate for Years, -	260
Trufts,	512
	488
1 U -	46
v. Stillingsleet, Devise, VI	519
Hayworth v. Pretty, id	145
	. 203
Heams v. Bance, id	150
Heard v. Wadham, Condition,	46
	495
Heath Duile	237
	442
	. 116
Heathcock v. Hanbury, id.	. 76
d 2 Heat	hcote

Heathcote v. Mainwaring, Title Tithes,	Vol. III. Page 90
Heddy v. Wheelhouse, Franchise,	288
Hedges v. Everard, Jointure, -	- I. 223
Heigate v. Williams, Ways,	- III. 129
Hele v. Bond, Deed, -	- IV. 233
Heliot v. Saunders, Fine,	
	- V. 144
Hemmings of Brokers Education	- IV. 468
Hemmings v. Brabazon, Estate far Years,	- I, 250
Henn v. Hanson, Deed,	- IV. 417
Henningham v Windham, Recovery,	- V. 505
Henzell v. Lodge, id.	- 411, 414
Herbert v. Binion, Fine,	- 73, 225
- , Recovery, -	- 428
v. Tream, Estate Tail,	- I. 43
Herring v. Browne, Deed,	- IV. 260
	- V. 170
Hesket v. Lee, Recovery,	
Hett v. Meads, Tithes,	395
Hewitt v. Hewitt, Estate for Life,	- III. 75
Heydon and Smith's Cafe Could	- I. 86
Heydon and Smith's Case, Coyshold,	324
Heylin v. Heylin, Devise,	- VI. 139
Heyn v. Villers, Remainder,	- II. 345
Heyward's Case, Deid,	+ IV. 423
Hick v. Mors, Devise,	• VI. 110
Hicks v. Hicks, Estate for Life,	- I. 8q
Hickson v. Wilham, Devise,	- VI. 157
Hide v. Newport, Copyhold,	+ I 387
Higgins v. Dowler, Devise,	- VI. 509
Higgon v. Siddal, Mortgage,	- II. 200
Hilchins v. Hilchins, Dower,	
Hill v. Adams, Trusts,	- I. 153
v. Carr, Estate Tail,	- 518
	- 43
v. London (Ep.), Trusts, -	476
TI-land	7 VI. 21
v. Upchurch, Alienation by Custom,	- V. 578
Hill's Case, Rents,	- III. 313
Hilliard v. Stapleton, Advowson,	- 43
Hillier, en parte, Devise,	- VI. 141
Hills v. Downton, id.	- 43
Hilton v King, id	- 9t
Hine v Dodd, Deed,	- IV. 364, 365
Hinton v. Hinton, Copyhild,	
Hitchcock v. Sedgewick, Mortgage, -	- 1. 334 - II. 250
Hitchin v. Hitchin, Dower, -	- I. 180
Hitchins v. Bassett, Devise, -	
- Devises v. Dancity Devises	VI. 82, 85
	. Hobart

Hobart v. Hammon, Title Copyhold,	Vol. I.	Page 353
Hoby v. Hoby, Dower,	, 4.1 21	
Hodgkinson v. Star, Devise,	•	166
To Samon o. Otal, Deolje,	7	VI. 175
Wood, id.	•	124
Hodgson v. Ambrose, id.	152,	154, 357
v. Wallis, Reversion,		II. 466
Hodsol v. Bussey, Deed,	•	IV. 489
Hodson v. Lloyd, Devise,	•	
Hoe v. Girils, id.	-	VI. 105
v. Taylor, Copyhold, -	•	441
Hollseach et Cambook Fine	7	I. 307
Holorofe's Color Burger, Fine,		V. 201
Holcrost's Case, Remainder,	•	II. 296
Deed, -	•	IV. 497
Holder v. Preston, Copyhold,	_	1. 345
Holderness v. Carmarthen, Estate Tail,	•	•
Holdfast v. Clapham, Alienation by Custom,	_	36
- v. Martin, Devise,	•	V. 551
Holford v. Hatch, Deed,		VI. 7+9
Holland and Bonis's Case, id.		IV. 70
Holland's Colo D' 40		175
Holland's Case, Private Act,	-	514
Holland v. Dancey, Recovery,		V. 356
Hollis v. Carr, Deed,		IV. 65
Holmes v. Buckley, id.	-	
v. Coghill, id.		- 75
v. Meynill, Deviss,		332
v. Sellers, Deed, -		VI. 415
Holt v. Lowe, Fine,	•	IV. 112
Hone v. Medcraft, Devise,	-	V. 251
Honeumond of William D.	•	VI. 126
Honeywood v. Waldron, Deed,	•	IV. 348
Honor v. Honor, id.	•	484
Hook v. Grove, Jointure,	•	L 227
Hooker v. Hooker, Remainder,	•	II. 368
Hope ex Dem. Brown v. Taylor, Devise,	•	VI. 285
Hopkins v. Hopkins, Trusts,	_	
, Remainder, -	_	I. 461
	-)	II. 329
Hopton v. Johns, Recovery,	's 545, 5	19, 544
Horton e. Whiteless Deminder	•	V. 394
Horton v. Whitaker, Remainder,	-	II. 290
Hoskins v. Robins, Common,	-	III. 103
How v. Vigueres, Devise,		VI. 21
- v. Whitfield, Deed,	•	IV. 274
Howard of Walden Barony, Case of, Dignities,	•	III. 251
Howard's Case, Offices,	•	, 4J*
Howard v. Cavendish, Advoruson,	·-	169 111 0
	ヺ _ 1	III. 8.
	- 1	Howard
		•

Howard v. Bartlett, Title Copybold, v. Harris, Mortgage, v. Hooker, Deed, Howe v. Howe, Trufts, Howell v. King, Ways, v. Price, Mortgage, Howes v. Brushfield, Deed, Howlet v. Carpenter, Fine, Howton v. Frearson, Ways, Hudson's Case, Fine, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson v. Benson, Recovery, Hugsins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, v. Robotham, Deed, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humbers v. Burton, Recovery, Humbers v. Burton, Recovery, Humbers v. Humberston, Devise, Humbers v. Burton, Recovery, Humbers v. Humberston, Devise, Humbers v. Burton, Recovery, VI. 161, 544, 553 Hungate's Case, Fine, 92
Howe v. Howe, Trufts, Howell v. King, Ways, v. Price, Mortgage, Howes v. Brushfield, Deed, Howton v. Frearson, Ways, Hubert's Case, Fine, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, W. 243, 452 Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, W. 244, 453 Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, W. 244, 453 Hughes v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, VI. 161, 544, 553 Hume v. Burton, Recovery, VIII. 161, 544, 553
Howe v. Howe, Trufts, Howell v. King, Ways, v. Price, Mortgage, Howes v. Brushfield, Deed, Howton v. Garpenter, Fine, Hubert's Case, Fine, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson's Case, Deed, Huggins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, v. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, VI. 161, 544, 553 Hume v. Burton, Recovery, VII. 161, 544, 553
Howell v. King, Ways, v. Price, Mortgage, Howes v. Brushsield, Deed, Howlet v. Carpenter, Fine, Howton v. Frearson, Ways, Hubert's Case, Fine, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson v. Benson, Recovery, Huggins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, V. 404 v. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 518
Howes v. Brushfield, Deed, Howlet v. Carpenter, Fine, Howton v. Frearson, Ways, Hubert's Case, Fine, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson's Case, Deed, Huggins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, V. 424, 452 Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, W. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hull v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 518
Howes v. Brushsield, Deed, Howlet v. Carpenter, Fine, Howton v. Frearson, Ways, Hubert's Case, Fine, V. 243 Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson's Case, Deed, Huggins v. Benson, Recovery, Huggins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, V. 404 Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, W. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hull v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, V. 518 Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 210 V. 210 V. 210 V. 243 V. 243 V. 424, 452 V. 424, 452 V. 424 V. 452 V. 404 V. 404 V. 404 V. 404 V. 404 V. 404 V. 587 V. 587 V. 587 V. 518
Howlet v. Carpenter, Fine, Howton v. Frearson, Ways, Hubert's Case, Fine, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson v. Benson, Recovery, Huggins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, V. 424, 452 Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, V. 404 Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hull v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, V. 210 V. 210 V. 210 V. 243 Hughs v. 424, 452 V. 424, 452 III. 163 V. 404 V. 404 V. 587 Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, V. 587 Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, VI. 161, 544, 553 Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 518
Howton v. Frearson, Ways, Hubert's Case, Fine, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson's Case, Deed, Huggins v. Benson, Recovery, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, V. 424, 452 Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, V. 404 Hughes v. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 243 IV. 243 V. 424, 452 L. 269 V. 404 V. 581 V. 581 VI. 161, 544, 553 V. 518
Hubert's Case, Fine, Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson v. Benson, Recovery, Huggins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, V. 404 W. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 243 V. 243 V. 243 V. 243 V. 243 V. 424, 452 V. 404 V. 404 V. 404 V. 404 V. 581 Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, V. 581 VI. 161, 544, 553 V. 518
Hudson's Case, Deed, Hudson v. Benson, Recovery, Huggins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, V. 404 W. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hull v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 424, 452 V. 404 V. 404 V. 158 V. 587 V. 587 VI. 161, 544, 553 V. 518
Hudson v. Benson, Recovery, Huggins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, v. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 424, 452 III. 163 V. 404 IV. 158 V. 404 V. 404 V. 587 Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, V. 587 V. 587 VI. 161, 544, 553 V. 518
Huggins v. Bambridge, Offices, Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, v. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 404 IV. 158 V. 404 IV. 158 V. 587 VI. 161, 544, 553 VI. 161, 544, 553
Hughes v. Clubbe, Recovery, v. Robotham, Deed, Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 404 IV. 158 V. 404 IV. 158 V. 587 V. 587 VI. 161, 544, 553 V. 518
Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, VI. 161, 544, 553 VI. 161, 544, 553
Hughs v. Harrys, Copyhold, Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 518
Hull v. Sharbrook, Alienation by Custom, Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, VI. 161, 544, 553 Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 518
Hulm v. Heylock, Fine, Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, VI. 161, 544, 553 Hume v. Burton, Recovery, V. 518
Humberston v. Humberston, Devise, VI. 161, 544, 553 Hume v. Burton, Recovery, - V. 518
Hume v. Burton, Recovery, - V. 518
Hungerford v. Clay, Mortgage, - II. 129
v. Nosworthy, Devise, - VI. 82
Hunt v. Bourne, Fine, V. 63
v. Bowine, Prescription, - III. 551
v. Coles, Trufts, I. 503
v. Hunt, Condition, II. 48
- v. King, Fine, - V. 137, 139
Huntingdon v. Huntingdon, Trusts, - I. 510
Hurd v. Fletcher, Deed, IV. 85
Hurst v. Winchelsea, id 257
Hussey's Case, Derise, WI. 110
Hussey v. Grills, id. + - , 76
Hutchinson's Case, Fine, - V. 92, 231
Hutton v. Simpson, Devise, - VI. 151, 181
Huyt v. Cogan, Effate by Stat. Merchant, &c. II. 68
Huxlop v. Brooman, Devise, - VI. 196
Hyde v. Hyde, id 92, 96
Hynde's Case, Recovery, V. 331

I.

Ibbetson v. Beckworth, Title L	evife,	0
	Vol. VI. Page 2.	
Ibbotson v. Rhodes, Mortgage,	-	II. 201
Idle v. Cook, Deed, -	• · • ,	IV. 446
, Alienation by Custon	n, -	- V. 556
Ilchester (Lord) ex parte, Devis		VI. 103
Ilderton v. Ilderton, Dower,	·	I. 139
Inchly v. Robinson, Devise,		VI. 190
Incledon v. Northcotc, Dower,		I. 185
, Recover	y , – –	V. 459
Ingram's Case, Dower,	•	I. 161
Ingram v. Ingram, Deed,	•	IV. 273
v. Pelham, Mortgage,	. •	IL 199
Ireland v. Rittle, Joint Tenancy	. -	- 535
Iseham v. Morrice, Fine,	• •	V. 163
Ives v. Legge, Remainder,		II. 283
		٠.
		•
	•	
Jackman v. Hoddiston, 'Copyhol	<i>d</i> , -	- I. 363
Jackson v. Hogan, Devise,	•	VI. 177, 254
v. Hurlock, id.	• •	- 105
Jackson, Deed,		- IV. 106
James v. Collins, Devise,		VI. 409
Jason v. Eyre, Mortgage,	• •	- II. 89
Jebb v. Arbett, Trusts,	-	I. 543
Jefferson v. Ep. Durham, Esta	te for Life.	- 79
Jeffry and Hay's Case, Prescrip		III. 527
Jemmott v. Cowley, Rents,	•	331
Jenison v. Lexington, id.	•	- 321
Jenkin v. Church, Deed,		IV. 133
Jenkins v. Keymis, Estate Tail,	. •	I. 43
, Deed,		- IV. 399
- v. Prichard, Descent,	•	III. 462, 465
v. Young, User,	•	- l. 430
Jenkinson v. Staples, Recovery,		- V. 413
Jenner v. Morgan, Rents,	·	III. 362
v. Tracy, Mortgage,		II. 154
Jennings's Case, Recovery,		V. 329, 431
acritices a much Trecont is	-	・・ ファアス マフ・
. 6	•	Jennings

Jennings v. Lettis, Title Tithes,		
1V. 358	Jennings v. Lettis, Title Tithes, - Vol. III	. Page 86
Jermin v. Arscott, Condition, V. 506		
Jermin v. Arfcott, Condition,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Jermin v. Arfcott, Condition, Remainder, Remainder, Remainder, Jeffer v. Gifford, Reversion, lefus College v. Bloome, Remainder, Jew v. Thirkwell, Rentis, Johns v. Lawrence, Advovson, Johns v. Lawrence, Advovson, Johns v. Lawrence, Advovson, Johns v. Cotton, Deed, v. Derby (E. of), Recovery, v. Lernan, Devise, v. Wilfon, id. ex parte, Recovery, Jolland v. Stainbridge, Deed, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Clough, Deed, v. Clough, Deed, v. Clough, Deed, v. Marsh, Deed, v. Marsh, Deed, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Nowman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copybold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, V. 358 K.		
Jervis v. Bruton, Condition, Jeffer v. Gifford, Reversion, Jefus College v. Bloome, Remainder, Jew v. Thirkwell, Rents, Johns v. Lawrence, Advoragion, Johns v. Lawrence, Advoragion, Johnson v. Cotton, Deed, — v. Derby (E. of), Recovery, — v. Kerman, Devise, — v. Nott, Deed, — v. Wilson, id. — ex parte, Recovery, — v. Cave, Fine, — v. Clerk, Offices, — v. Collier, Dower, — v. Collier, Dower, — v. Morgan, Devise, — v. Newman, Devise, — v. Newman, Devise, — v. Newman, Devise, — v. Newman, Devise, — v. Turberville, Prescription, — v. Westcombe, Devise, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.		
Jervis v. Bruton, Condition, Jeffer v. Gifford, Reversion, Jeffus College v. Bloome, Remainder, Jew v. Thirkwell, Rents, Johns v. Lawrence, Advovoson, Johns v. Lawrence, Advovoson, Johns v. Lawrence, Movovson, V. 141 Johnson v. Cotton, Deed, v. Derby (E. of), Recovery, v. Merman, Devise, v. Wilson, id. ex parte, Recovery, v. Wilson, id. ex parte, Recovery, v. Cave, Fine, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Neman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Denny, Recovery, K.		
Jeffer v. Gifford, Reversion, 458 Jefus College v. Bloome, Remainder, 428 Jew v. Thirkwell, Rents,		
Jefus College v. Bloome, Remainder, Jew v. Thirkwell, Rents, Johns v. Lawrence, Advowson, Johns v. Lawrence, Advowson, Johnson v. Cotton, Deed, v. Derby (E. of), Recovery, v. Netrnan, Devise, v. Wilfon, id. ex parte, Recovery, Jolland v. Stainbridge, Deed, v. Clorek, Offices, v. Clorek, Offices, v. Clough, Deed, v. Clough, Deed, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Marth, Deed, v. Marth, Deed, v. Morley, Deed, v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devise, v. Check, Mortgage, v. Nowman, Devise, v. Check, Mortgage, v. Nowman, Devise, v. Check, Mortgage, v. Norley, Deed, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copybold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, V. 358		10
Jew v. Thirkwell, Rents, Johns v. Lawrence, Advowson, Johns v. Lawrence, Advowson, Johnson v. Cotton, Deed, v. Derby (E. of), Recovery, v. Kerman, Devise, v. Nott, Deed, v. Wilson, id. ex parte, Recovery, Jolland v. Stainbridge, Deed, v. Cave, Fine, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Collier, Dower, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Marsh, Deed, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copybold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.		458
Johns v. Lawrence, Advovofon, Johnson and Bellamy's Case, Fine, Johnson v. Cotton, Deed, v. Derby (E. of), Recovery, v. Kerman, Devise, v. Nott, Deed, v. Wilson, id. ex parte, Recovery, v. Cave, Fine, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Collier, Dower, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Mortgage, v. Morley, Deed, v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Curberville, Prescription, v. Turberville, Prescription, Johnson v. Lake, Devise, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Mortgage, v. Mortgage, v. Mortgage, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, JII. 146 v. Pugh, Offices, JII. 146 v. Pugh, Offices, JII. 146 v. Smith, Mortgage, JII. 146 v. Turberville, Prescription, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.	Jesus College v. Bloome, Remainder, -	428
Johns v. Lawrence, Advovofon, Johnson and Bellamy's Case, Fine, Johnson v. Cotton, Deed, v. Derby (E. of), Recovery, v. Kerman, Devise, v. Nott, Deed, v. Wilson, id. ex parte, Recovery, v. Cave, Fine, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Collier, Dower, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Mortgage, v. Morley, Deed, v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Curberville, Prescription, v. Turberville, Prescription, Johnson v. Lake, Devise, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Mortgage, v. Mortgage, v. Mortgage, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, JII. 146 v. Pugh, Offices, JII. 146 v. Pugh, Offices, JII. 146 v. Smith, Mortgage, JII. 146 v. Turberville, Prescription, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.	Jew v. Thirkwell, Rents,	III. 360
Johnson and Bellamy's Case, Fine, Johnson v. Cotton, Deed, v. Derby (E. of), Recovery, v. Kerman, Devise, v. Nott, Deed, v. Wilson, id. v. Wilson, id. v. Stainbridge, Deed, Jones v. Bew, Offices, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Clough, Deed, v. Collier, Dower, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Marsh, Deed, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copybold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, v. 497 V. 305 IV. 245 V. 397 Jourden v. Recovery, V. 305 Jourden v. Savage, Copybold, V. 305 VI. 342 V. 111 V. 305 VI. 342 VI. 342 VI. 342 VII. 146 VII. 146 VII. 146 VII. 146 VII. 146 VII. 367 VII. 505 Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, V. 358 K.		•
Johnson v. Cotton, Deed, v. Derby (E. of), Recovery, v. Kerman, Devise, v. Nott, Deed, v. Wilson, id. v. Wilson, id. ex parte, Recovery, Jolland v. Stainbridge, Deed, v. Cave, Fine, v. Clork, Offices, v. Collier, Deed, v. Collier, Dower, v. Collier, Dower, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Marsh, Deed, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Denny, Recovery, v. 358 K.	. V	<u> </u>
	— ▼ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
v. Kerman, Devife, v. Nott, Deed, v. Wilfon, id. ex parte, Recovery, Jolland v. Stainbridge, Deed, v. Cave, Fine, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Clough, Deed, v. Clough, Deed, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devife, v. Kenricke, Mortgage, v. Marsh, Deed, v. Morgan, Devife, v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devife, v. Newman, Devife, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devife, Jordan v. Savage, Copybold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Jolland v. Stainbridge, Deed, Jones v. Bew, Offices, — v. Cave, Fine, — v. Clerk, Offices, — v. Clough, Deed, — v. Collier, Dower, — v. Lake, Devise, — v. Marsh, Deed, — v. Morgan, Devise, — v. Morley, Deed, — v. Newman, Devise, — v. Newman, Devise, — v. Smith, Mortgage, — v. Smith, Mortgage, — v. Turberville, Prescription, — v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.		
Jolland v. Stainbridge, Deed, Jones v. Bew, Offices, — v. Cave, Fine, — v. Clerk, Offices, — v. Clough, Deed, — v. Collier, Dower, — v. Lake, Devise, — v. Kenricke, Mortgage, — v. Marsh, Deed, — v. Morgan, Devise, — v. Morley, Deed, — v. Newman, Devise, — v. Newman, Devise, — v. Smith, Mortgage, — v. Turberville, Prescription, — v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.	v. Willon, id	- 68
Jones v. Bew, Offices,	ex parte, Recovery, -	V. 397
Jones v. Bew, Offices,	Jolland v. Stainbridge, Deed,	IV. 365
v. Cave, Fine, v. Clerk, Offices, v. Clough, Deed, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Lake, Devise, v. Kenricke, Mortgage, v. Marsh, Deed, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Smith, Mortgage, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Savage, Copyhold, Jonath V. 331 Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.		
- v. Clerk, Offices, - v. Clough, Deed, - v. Collier, Dower, - v. Lake, Devise, - v. Lake, Devise, - v. Kenricke, Mortgage, - v. Marsh, Deed, - v. Morgan, Devise, - v. Morley, Deed, - v. Newman, Devise, - v. Newman, Devise, - v. Pugh, Offices, - v. Smith, Mortgage, - v. Turberville, Prescription, - v. Westcombe, Devise, - Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, - Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, - K.		
v. Clough, Deed, v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Kenricke, Mortgage, v. Marsh, Deed, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Smith, Mortgage, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, JII. 144 v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Savage, Copyhold, JII. 331 Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, V. 358	Clerk Offices	III tia
v. Collier, Dower, v. Lake, Devise, v. Kenricke, Mortgage, v. Marsh, Deed, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devise, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Smith, Mortgage, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Jil. 144 v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Josephold, v. Savage, Copyhold,	Clough Deed	
v. Lake, Devise, VI. 64 v. Kenricke, Mortgage, IV. 389 v. Marsh, Deed, IV. 389 v. Morgan, Devise, IV. 212 v. Morley, Deed, IV. 212 v. Newman, Devise, VI. 166 v. Pugh, Offices, JII. 146 v. Smith, Mortgage, II. 144 v. Turberville, Prescription, III. 367 v. Westcombe, Devise, VI. 505 Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, VI. 331 Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, V. 358	Callian Desum	
- v. Kenricke, Mortgage, - v. Marsh, Deed, - v. Morgan, Devise, - v. Morley, Deed, - v. Newman, Devise, - v. Pugh, Offices, - v. Smith, Mortgage, - v. Turberville, Prescription, - v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.		1. 190
v. Marsh, Deed, v. Morgan, Devise, v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Smith, Mortgage, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.		V1. 64
v. Morgan, Devise, - VI. 342, 401, 467, 475 v. Morley, Deed, - IV. 212 v. Newman, Devise, - VI. 100 v. Pugh, Offices, - JII. 146 v. Smith, Mortgage, - II. 144 v. Turberville, Prescription, - III. 367 v. Westcombe, Devise, - VI. 505 Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, - I. 331 Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, - V. 358	v. Kenricke, Wortgage, -	11. 256
v. Morgan, Devise, VI. 342, 461, 467, 475 v. Morley, Deed, IV. 212 v. Newman, Devise, VI. 166 v. Pugh, Offices, JII. 146 v. Smith, Mortgage, III. 144 v. Turberville, Prescription, III. 567 v. Westcombe, Devise, VI. 505 Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, VI. 331 Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, V. 358		IV. 389
v. Morley, Deed, v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Smith, Mortgage, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.	- v. Morgan, Devise, - VI. 342, 401,	467, 475
v. Newman, Devise, v. Pugh, Offices, v. Smith, Mortgage, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, V. 358	- v. Morley, Deed,	
v. Pugh, Offices, v. Smith, Mortgage, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, VI. 505 Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, V. 358 K.		
v. Smith, Mortgage, v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, V. 358 K.		
v. Turberville, Prescription, v. Westcombe, Devise, Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.	Smith Mortange	
Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.	a. Turberville Prescription	
Jordan v. Savage, Copyhold, Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, K.		311. 307
Jourden v. Denny, Recovery, - V. 358 K.		V 1. 505
K.	jordan v. Savage, Copynola,	1. 331
	Jourden v. Denny, Recovery,	. V. 358
	•	•
	•	
	TZ*	•
	A.	
Keckwith's Case, Fine, -	Keckwith's Case, Fine,	V. 02
Keech v. Hall, Mortgage, II. 108		II. IAR
Keen v. Effingham (E. of), Recovery, - V. 296 Keen	Trong to minister (m) or 12 trecoper 12	

I. 484 V. 296 Keen

	1
Reen v. Kirby, Title Alienation by Custom,	Vol. V. Page 272
Keene et Dickson Personnier	
Keene v. Dickson, Remainder,	- II. 287
Kellick v. Flexney, Trusts,	I. 485, 552
Kellow v. Rowden, Reversion, II. 461,	463, 482, 484, 491
Kemp v. Carter, Copyhold,	•
	- 1. 302, 319
Kenebel v. Scrafton, Devise,	- VI. 41
Kenrick v. Beauclerc, Trusts,	- I. 468
Kent v. Harpool, Remainder,	- II. 368
v. Steward, id	
	356
Kenworthy v. Bate, Deed,	IV. 263, 268
Kenyon v. Sutton, Devise, -	- VI. 125
Kerrick v. Bransby, id.	150
Kerry v. Derrick, id	
	- 195.
Kettle v. Townsend, id.	- 43
Keymer v. Summers, Ways,	- III. 131
Keys v. Bull, Fine, -	- V. 79
Kibbett v. Lee, Deed,	- IV ora
	- IV. 254
Kilmarry v. Geary, id.	232
Kimpton's Case, Common, -	- III. 117
Kinaston v. Clark, Deed,	- IV. 169
Devise,	- VI. 10
King v. Ballet, Trusts, -	
a Para IIC.	I. 506
- v. Boys, Uses,	- 423
v. Bromley, Mortgage,	- II. 144
- v. Burchell, Estate Tail, -	- I. 56
Condition,	·II. 9
en e	
-, Recovery,	V. 456
Devise, -	VI. 354, 359, 402
v. Cotton, Deed, -	IV. 404, 409
- v. Dillingston, Copyhold,-	- I. 373
- v. King, Mortgage, -	71 3/3
	- II. 166
Devise,	- VI. 4E
v. Melling, Recovery, -	- V. 467
Devise,	- VI. 359
v. Rumball, Remainder, -	- II. 297
	- 11. 297
Devise, -	VI. 284, 410
v. Walker, Prescription, -	- III. 564
Kingdom v. Bridges, Trufts, -	I. 484
Kingston (D. of)'s Case, Private Act,	- IV. 521
—— (Duchess of)'s Case, Recovery,	37
Tanhan is	- V. 524
v. Herbert, id.	- 509
Kirk v. Clark, Deed,	- IV. 388
- v. Webb, Trufts,	- I. 473
Kirkham v. Smith, Mortgage,	- II. 188
Kirkman v. Thompson, Recovery, -	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	- V. 402, 406
e <u>.</u>	Kirkman
	•

		Page 493
Kite and Quinton's Case, Alienation by C	Lustom,	V. 586
Knight's Case, Rents,	-	III. 316
Knotsford v. Gardiner, Devise, -	•	VI. 210
Knowles v. Spence, Mortgage, -		11. 155
Kynaston v. Clarke, Reversion, -	•	462
Fine,	•	V. 203

L.

Lacy v. Williams, Recovery,	-	•	V. 280
Lade v. Holford, Tenancy in Co	mmon,	•	II. 559
Deed,	• •	-	IV. 496
	•	VI.	162, 533
Lake v. Craddock, Joint-tenanc	y, - ·		II. 506
v. Lambert, Trufts,	•	-	I. 558
Lamb v. Archer, Devise,	•		VI. 486
Lampet's Case, Deed, -		-	IV. 151
Fine,	•	-	V. 156
- Devise, -	•	-	VI. 477
Lancaster v. Thornton, id.	-	•	437
Lance v. Norman, Dred,	•	•	IV. 409
Lane's Case, Copyhold, -	•	•	I. 386
Lane v. Dighton, Trusts,	• •	,	474
- v. Hawkins, Devise,	•	-	VI. 245
v. Pannel, Remainder,	- •		II. 341
, Alienation by Cy	stom, -	-	V. 563
v. Stanhope (Lord), Deut	- ·	-	VI. 212
Lanesborough v. Fox; id.	. 🛥	•	463
Langley v. Baldwin, id.	-	•	287
Lant v. Crispe, Mortgage,	~		II. 256
Large's Case, Remainder,	• •	•	262
Larkins v. Larkins, Depise,	• •	•	VI. 97
Lashman v. Avery, Copybold,	·	-	I. 335
Lassels v. Cornwallis (Ld.), De	red, -	•	IV. 332
Latham v. Attwood, Estate for.	Life, -	•	I. 38
Laughler's Case, Condition,	-	◆.	II. 42
Laughter v. Humphrey, Recove	ry, -	-	V. 401
Laund v. Tucker, Fine,	-	•	181
Laurence v. Laurence, Dower,	•	•	I. 183
Law v. Lincoln (Ep.), Devise,	- .	•	VI. 21
Lawrence v. Wallis, Deed,	• •	•	IV. 257
•	•		Lawley
			_

Lawfey v. Lowdell, Title Devise, - Vol. VI. Page 343
Lawson v. Hudson, Mortgage, - II. 183
Lawton v. Ward, Ways, - III. 126
Lea v. Libb, Devise, - VI. 55
Leach v. Dean, Deed, - IV. 377
Leake v. Randall, Jointure, - I. 208
Lechford's Case, Estate for Years, - 369
- v. Arundel, Rents, - III. 315
- v. Brothby, Copyhold, I. 305
v. Brown, Alienation by Custom, - V. 577
v. Norris, Prescription, III. 558
Leeds v. Strafford, Copyhold, - I. 312
Legate v. Sewell, Devise, VI. 334
Legg v. Goldwire, Deed, - IV. 486
Legh v. Warrington (E. of), Devise, - VI. 431
Leighton v. Thud, Estate at Will, I. 274
Leman v. Newnham, Mortgage, - II. 173
Le Maitre v. Bannister, Devise, VI. 177
Le Mayne v. Stanley, id 50, 53
Le Neve v. Le Neve, Deed, - IV. 184, 355
Leonard's Case, id 244
Leonard v. Sussex (E. of), Devise, VI. 369, 376, 384
Lesquire v Lesquire, Dower, I. 182
Lever v. Hosier, Recovery, V. 384
Lewen v. Cox, Devise, VI. 409
Lewing's Case, Fine, V. 95
Lewis v. Freke, Deed, IV. 232
v. Nangle, Dower, I. 187
Limax v. ——, Jointure, — — — 225
Linch v. Coole, Remainder, II. 323
Lincoln (Ld.)'s Case, Devise, VI. 108
Lindopp v. Everall, Devise, VI. 219
Lindsay v. Grey, Fine, V. 111
Lingard v. Derby, Devise, VI. 439
Lister v. Lister, Fine, V. 96
Litton v. Falkland (Lady), id 130
v. Ruffel (Lady), id 231
Llewellin v. Mackworth, Prescription, - III. 565, 566
e 2 Lloyd

Lloyd v. Baldwin, Title Trusts,	. 1	7ol. I.	Page	F 40
	,	_		
v. Broking, Remainder, -	•		II.	303
v. Carew, id.	•	•		357
, Deed,	•	•	IV.	496
	-	•	V.	219
- v. Evelyn, Recovery, -	•	•		302
- v. Griffifths, Deed, -	_	_	IV.	_
• · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			_	
v. Read, Trusts,	•	•		
v. Say and Selc (Lord), Deed,	•		IV.	
Fine,	•	-	V.	34
Recover	y 5	•		333
v. Spellett, Trusts, -	•	I.	47T,	
v. Vaughan, Recovery, -			V.	
Loddington v. Kyme, Remainder,		II.	•	_
	•	110		
, Deed, -	•	-	IV.	244
, Recovery,	-	•	V.	472
, Devise, -	•	VI.	187,	356
Loggin v. Pullen, Recovery, -	•		V.	
Lombe v. Lombe, Fine, -	-	-		93
London (Ep.) v. Fytche, Advouson,	_	_	TIT	43
		_	-	_
v. Rowe, Copyhold,	,	•	4.	304
v. Webb, Estate for Yea	rs,	-		259
- v. Wolverston, Advants	n,	-	III.	37
Long v. Blackall, Devise, VI.	449, 487	, 532,	538,	545
v. Dennis, Condition,	.,	-	Ц.	29
v. Long, Deed,		-		263
Long and Hemming's Case, Advowson,		•	III.	_
Longford v. Eyre, Devise, -	-			_ 6
	•		VI.	OI
v. Pitt, id,	•	•	_	34
Longville's Case, Dorver, -	•	-		166
Lord v. Biscoe, Recovery, -	•	•	V.	412
Lougher v. Williams, Deed, '-	-			269
	481, 491	. 407.		
Loveacres v. Blight, id		, 4 <i>7 ()</i>	73-3	
Lovel v. Lancaster, Mortgage, -			TT	238
Toroll - I amall All action to College		- .		168
Lovell v. Lovell, Alienation by Custom,			V.	537
Lovie's Case, Remainder, -	-	•	II.	442
, Deed,	. •	•	IV.	244
Lowe v. Burrow, Fflate for Life,	-	•		93
v. Davies, Devise,	-	VI.	346,	210
Lowther v. Cavendish, id		_	3403	_
	•	•	•	207
v. Raw, Copyhold,	•	•	1.	352
Lowthian v. Hasel, Mortgage, -	•		Ц.	151
Luck v. Trollop, Jointure,	-	•	I.	225
Lucy v. Livingston, Private Act,	-	• ,	IV.	520
•	•	•		ford

Ludford v. Barber, Title Deed,		Vol. IV.	Page 128
Lumbard (Octavians)'s Case, Esta		•	I. 54
, Rec	overy,	-	V. 421
Lumley's Case, Descent, -	•	•	III. 474
Lumley Barony, Case of, Dignition	.s, -	•	239
Lush v. Wilkinson, Deed,	•	•	IV. 398
Lusher v. Bambing, id	•	-	221
Luther v. Kirby, Devise,	•	•	VI. 123
Luttrell's Case, Prescription,	_	•	III. 537
Luttrell v. Westover, Copyhold,		_	I. 364
Lutwich v. Mitton, Reversion,	_	_	- ;
	-		456 TV 705
Device	. •	•	IV. 197
, Devife,	-	•	VI. 110
v. Winford, Trufts,	-	•	I. 547
Lynch v. Spencer, Recovery,	•	•	V. 407
Lytton v. Lytton, Devise,	-	•	VI. 471
M.			
Machall a Clark Fast Tail		•	T
Machell v. Clerk, Estate Tail,	•	. •	I. 47
Recovery,	•	•	V. 430
Mackenzie v. Lord Powis, Prescr	_	• .	III. 568
v. Robinson, Advowso		•	26
v. Stuart, Private Act	• •	•	IV: 545
Mackwilliam's Case, Fine, -	•	•	V. 142
Mackworth (Sir H.)'s Case, Reco	very,	-	395
Maddon v. White, Eftate at Will,	, •	•	I. 278
Mador v Jackson, Deed,	•	-	IV. 342
Magdalen College, Case of, Presci	ription,	-	III. 560
Fine,	•	-	V. 209
Magenis v. Macullock, Deed,	•	•	IV. 157
Maggot and Sewell, Devise, -	•		VI. 361
Mainwaring v. Baxter, Deed,	•	•	IV. 492
Maire ex parte, Fine,	-		V. 93
Makepeace v. Fletcher, Deed,	_	_ 117	
Mallet v. Mallet, Fine,	_		426, 443 V 100
Mandeville's Case, Deed,	_		V. 103
	-,	•	IV. 449
Manning's Case, Devise,	•	•	VI. 477
Mansell v. Mansell, Condition,	•	_	II. 26
, Remainder,	• •		416, 419
, Deed,		• .	IV. 202

27 III. 474 Martiner

Manser's Case, id.

Mantell v. Mantell, Descent,

Mardiner v. Elliot, Title Copybold, -	Vol. I. Page 326
Margett v. Butcher, Tithes,	- III. 59
Markant v. Twisden, Devise, -	VF. 193
Marks v. Marks, Condition, -	- II. 37
Marlborough (D. of) v. Godolphin (Ld.) Dee	
Marsh v. Lee, Mortgage, -	- II. 208
v. Marsh, Devise, -	- VI. 187
Marsham v. Hunter, Common, -	- III. 117
Marshall v. Franks, Deed,	- IV. 420
Martin v. Mowlin, Condition, -	- IV. 123
Alienation by Custom,	- V. 579
v. Savage, Devise, -	- VI. 129
v. Seamore, Jointure, -	- I. 221
v. Strahan, Recovery,	- V. 476
Martins v. Bennett, Deed,	- IV. 414
Marwood v. Darell, Trufts, - : -	- I. 461
Turner, Devise, -	VI. 111, 126
Maryat v. Townley, id.	- 411
Mason v. Day, Descent,	- III. 397
Massenburg v. Ash, Devise, -	- VI. 508
Massey v. Rice, Recovery,	V. 385
Masters v. Masters, Devise,	- VI. 49
Matheson v. Trot, Recovery, -	37 004
	V. 324
Mathews v. Temple, Remainder, -	- IL 350
Matthews v. Walwin, Mortgage, -	122
v. Wheaton, Copybold, -	- I. 364, 379
May v. Hook, Joint Tenancy, -	- II. 523
v. Street, Eficheat,	- III. 496
Mayo v. Combes, Fine, -	V. 83
	•
Mayre v. Coulthard, Recovery,	- 411
Molevick v. Luther, Copyhold, -	- <u>I. 3</u> co
Mellor v. Lees, Mortgage, -	- H. 101
Menville's Case, Fine,	- V. 179
Menzey v. Walker, Deed, -	- IV. 264
Meredith v. Jones, Uses,	- I. 431
v. Leslie, Kemainder, -	11 -26
•	11. 300
Deed,	- IV. 475
- , Recovery, -	V. 444, 476
Merrel v. Rumfey, Deed,	- IV. 448
Merson v. Blackmore, Devise,	- VI. 316
Merton (Abbot of)'s Case, Fine,	V. 11, 12
Metcalfe v Parry, Recovery,	V. 325
Meure v. Meure, Devise,	• VI. 375
	Y 4. 3/3
Middleton v. Jackson, Copyhold,	- I. 354
Midlemore v. Goodall, Deed,	FV. 80
•	Milbank
4	

•		
Milbank v. Joliffe, Title Recovery, -	Vol. V.	Page 414
Milbourn v. Milbourn, Devise, -		VI. 219
Mildmay's Case, Remainder,		II. 306
Deed,		322, 323
, Recovery, -	-	V. 453
Mildmay v. Hungerford, Alienation by Custom,		554
Milfax v. Baker, Copyhold,	,	1. 378
Miller v. Seagrave, Devise,	-	VI. 332
Milward v. Thatcher, Offices, -	_	I. 169
Minshull v. Minshull, Devise, -	_	VI. 334
Mitchell v. Neave, Alienation by Cuftom,	_	V. 536
Mitton's Case, Offices, -		III. 136
Mocatta v. Murgatroyd, Mortgage, -	•	II. 201
Molington v. Philpot, Deed, - '-	•	IV. 468
Monk v. Butler, Fine,	•	V. 106
v. Cooper, Rents,	-	III. 351
Montague v. Maxwell, Jointure,	•	1. 241
Montague's Case, Copybold,	•	364
Moody v. Moody, Joint Tenancy, -	-	II. 511
, Recovery, -	a	V. 448
Moor v. Onflow, Joint Tenancy, -	11.	529, 531
Moore's Case, Alienation by Custom, -	•	V. 549
Moore v. Denn, Devise,		VI. 256
v. Hawkins, id	-	- 24
- v. Magrath, Uses, -	•	I. 446
v. Moore, Devise,	.	VI. 40
- v. Parker, Remainder, -	•	П. 330
, Deed, -	•	I. 478
v. Price, Devise,	•	VI. 254
- v. Saville, Condition,	•	II. 7
Moorehouse v. Wainhouse, Remainder, -	•	45¥
Mordant v. Thorold, Dower, -	•	I. 170
More's Case, Condition,	-	II. 11
Moreau's Case, Fine,	•	V. 84
Morecock v. Dickins, Deed, -	•	IV. 350
Morgan v. Scudamore, Copyhold, -	•	I. 335
Morgrave v. Lehook, Mortgage, -	•	II. 144
Morret v. Paske, id.	•	146
Morrice v. Ward, Devise, -	~	VI. 334
Morris v. M'Cullock, Offices, -	•	III. 164
Moss v. Gallimore, Mortgage, -	•	' II. 111
Mountford v. Catesby, Deed,	•	IV. 79
Mountjoy's Case, id	•	
Mountjoy v Huntingdon, Franchises,	_	302, 507 III. 300
Moyse v. Giles, Joint Tenancy,	_	II. 522
aray 10 or cares, Juin 2 saulty	-	Mullery
		- Mantici A

Mullery v. Jennings, Title Deed, Vol. Mullinix's Case, Devise, Mumma v. Mumma, Trusts, Mundy v. Mundy, Curtesy, Murray v. Wise, Devise, Murrell v Osborn, Recovery, Murrey v. Egton and Price, id. Mutton's Case, Remainder,	VI. 445 VI. 445 I. 478 I. 121 VI. 250 V. 436 496 II. 353
N.	
Maria a Edmanda Cida	-

Nagle v. Edwards, Tithes,	_	•	III. 80
Napper v. Allington, Deed,	_	-	IV. 86
v. Saunders, Remainder,	_	-	II. 265
Nash v. Derby, Copyhold,		_	I. 380
v. Mollins, Tithes,		_	III. 75
. Preston, Mortgage,	•	•	II 85
Nayler v. Baldwin, Fine,	_	_	
Neale v. Attorney General, Mon	rtoase.		V. 158
- v. Jackson, Copyhold,	·8-6·)		II. 193
- v. Wilding, Recovery,	_	_	I. 300
Nelson's Case, Common, -	_	_	V. 502
Nevel v. Nevel, Deed, -	_	_	III. 115
Nevil's Case, Offices, -	_	TIT	IV. 442
Dignities,			150, 160
Nevil v. Hammerton, Common,	_		- 238
Neville's Case, Copybold,	_	•	109
Neville v. Saunders, Trusts,	_	_	L. 307
Newcastle (Dis. of) v. Pelham,	Desite		465
Newland v. Shephard, id.	Devije,	•	VI. 10
Newling v. Abbot, Mortgage,	_	•	240
Newman v. Johnson, Devise,	•	•	II. 188
Newsome v. Bowyer, Deed,	_	•	VI. 436
Newstead v. Serles, id.		-	IV. 21
Newton v. Barnardine, Devise,	-	•	385, 404
Nicholas v. Elliott, Tithes,	•		VI. 282
Nicholls v. Haywood, Deed,	•	•	111. 58
Nichole at Mannael Montage	•	-	IV. 369
Nichols v. Maynard, Mortgage,	-	•	II. 191
Nightingale v. Ferrars, Uses,	•	•	I. 452
Noble a Swith id	-	-	IV. 225
Noble v. Smith, id.	•	-	_ 80
Noel v. Jevon, Trusts,	-	•	1. 541
Noke's Case, Deed, a	•	-	IV. 66
	,		Note

Noke v. Darby, Title Mortgage, Norfolk v. Browne, Trufts, Norfolk v. Browne, Trufts, Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe, Deed, Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe, Deed, Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe, Deed, Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice v. Trift, Deed, Norris v. Trift, Deed, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, Northon v. Clark, Tithes, Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Nortgage,		
Norfolk v. Browne, Trufts, Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe, Deed, Private Act, Fine, Devise, Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice (Ld.) v. Winchester (M. of), Recovery, Norris v. Trist, Deed, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, V. 459 L 510 Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, v. Ladd, Devise, Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Nowlan v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Jugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. Nakes v. Chalsont, Devise, O. VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id.	Noke v. Darby, Title Mortgage Vol. II. F	age 167
Norfolk (D. of)'s Cafe, Deed, Private Act, Fine, Devise, V. 164, 22ò Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice (Ld.) v. Winchester (M. of), Recovery, V. 510 North v. Champernoon, Recovery, V. 459 Langton, Trusts, VI. 252, 253 Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Novs v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gisford, Trusts, O. Nakes v. Chalsont, Devise, VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id.		
Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice (Ld.) v. Winchester (M. of), Recovery, Norris v. Trist, Deed, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, V. 459 v. Langton, Trusts, Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, v. Ladd, Devise, VI. 252, 253 Vottingham v. Jennings, id. Nordaunt, Mortgage, Nordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. Nakes v. Chalsont, Devise, VI. 498 VI. 498 VI. 498 VII. 498		
Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice (Ld.) v. Winchester (M. of), Recovery, Norris v. Trist, Deed, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, V. 459 VI. 252, 253	70 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice (Ld.) v. Winchester (M. of), Recovery, Norris v. Trist, Deed, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, - v. Langton, Trusts, Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, - v. Ladd, Devise, VI. 252, 253 Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Nortgage, Nordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. VI. 498 Dakes v. Chalsont, Devise, Dakes v. Cooke, id.	TO	· ·
Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice (Ld.) v. Winchester (M. of), Recovery, Norrie v. Trist, Deed, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, v. Langton, Trusts, Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, v. Ladd, Devise, Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Nortgage, Nogent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. O. O. VI. 498 Dates v. Chalsont, Devise, Dates v. Cooke, id. VI. 498		• •
Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold, Norrice (Ld.) v. Winchester (M. of), Recovery, V. 510 Norrie v. Trist, Deed, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, V. 459 v. Langton, Trusts, Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, VI. 252, 253 Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Nortgage, Nugent v. Gissord, Trusts, O. O. VI. 498 Dakes v. Chalsont, Devise, Dakes v. Cooke, id. V. 459 V. 459 V. 459 IV. 67 IV. 67 IV. 67 IV. 252, 253 VI. 252, 253 VII. 252, 253		44, 552
Norrice (Ld.) v. Winchester (M. of), Recovery, Norrie v. Trist, Deed, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, v. Langton, Trusts, Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, v. Ladd, Devise, VI. 252, 253 Vottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Norts v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id.	Norrice v. Norrice, Copyhold,	
Norris v. Trist, Deed, North v. Champernoon, Recovery, v. Langton, Trusts, Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, v. Ladd, Devise, Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Noys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. VI. 498 Dates v. Chalfont, Devise, V. 459 V. 459 IV. 105 V. 459 IV. 67 IV. 67 VI. 252, 253 VI. 252, 253 VI. 252, 253 II. 124 VI. 498 Dates v. Chalfont, Devise, VI. 498	Norrice (Ld.) v. Winchester (M. of), Recovery,	
North v. Champernoon, Recovery, v. Langton, Trusts, Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, v. Ladd, Devise, Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Noys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. V. 459 II. 510 IV. 67 III. 55 VI. 252, 253 VI. 252, 253 II. 124 III. 125 III. 126 III. 126		
Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, v. Ladd, Devise, Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Nowlan v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id. I. 510 IV. 67 IV. 67 IV. 67 IV. 67 IV. 252, 253 VI. 252, 253 VI. 252, 253 II. 124 II. 124 II. 124 II. 124 II. 246		
Northumberland (D. of) v. Errington, Deed, Norton v. Clark, Tithes, v. Ladd, Devise, VI. 252, 253 Vottingham v. Jennings, id. Vowlan v. Nelligan, id. Voys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, VII. 124 VII. 124 VII. 124 VII. 124 VII. 124 VII. 252 VII. 252, 253 VII. 25	- s. Langton Toute	
Norton v. Clark, Tithes, v. Ladd, Devise, VI. 252, 253 Vottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Noys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, VII. 124 VII. 124 VII. 258 VII. 259, 253 VII. 259, 259 VII. 259, 253 VII. 259, 259 VII. 259 VII. 259, 259 VII. 259, 259 VII. 259, 259 VII. 259 VIII. 259 VII. 259 VII. 259 VII. 259 VII. 259 VII. 259 VIII. 259 VII. 259	Northumberland (D. of) at Projector D. J.	
Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Noys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. O. VI. 252, 253 279 In 124 In 124 In 124 VI. 252, 253 VI. 258 279 VI. 258 VI. 258 279 VI. 179 VI. 124 VI. 124 VI. 124 VI. 125 VI. 125 VI. 126 VI. 126 VI. 126 VI. 126 VI. 126 VI. 126		
Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Noys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. O. VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id. 279 II. 124 II. 124 VI. 498		
Nottingham v. Jennings, id. Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Noys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. Nakes v. Chalsont, Devise, Dates v. Cooke, id. 279 II. 124 II. 124 II. 546		52, 253
Nowlan v. Nelligan, id. Noys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. O. VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id. - 179 II. 124 II. 124 VI. 498	Nottingham v. Jennings, id.	
Noys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage, Nugent v. Gifford, Trusts, O. O. VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id.	Nowlan v. Nelligan, id.	-
Jakes v. Chalsont, Devise, Jakes v. Cooke, id. Jakes v. Cooke, id. Jakes v. Cooke, id. Jakes v. Cooke, id.	Joys v. Mordaunt, Mortgage.	
O. Dakes v. Chalsont, Devise, VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id 265		
Dakes v. Chalsont, Devise, VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id 265		1. 340
Dakes v. Chalsont, Devise, VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id 265	•	
Dakes v. Chalsont, Devise, VI. 498 Dates v. Cooke, id 265		
Dates v. Cooke, id 265	О.	•
Dates v. Cooke, id 265	Dakes v. Chalsont. Devile	VI 409
		~_
8) KYITh <i>Roote</i> III A	and a dr. and	205 [II. 21 8

Inkes v. Chalfont, Devise,	_	_		177 0
Dates v. Cooke, id		_	- .	VI. 498
	,		-	265
v. Frith, Rents,	-	-	•	III. 318
- v. Jacksen, Remainder,		•	•	II, 351
, Joint Tenar	icy	•	-	503
, Devise,	•	•	, ,	VI. 404
)'Callaghan v. Cooper, Cond	dition.	_	_	II. 32
Idiarne (Doe ex Dem.) v.		d Fine	77	171 007
	VV IIIICIIC	au, 1'me,	٧.	171, 235
Igle v. Cook, Devise,	#***	•		VI. 125
Ignell v. Arlington (Ld.),	tine,	•	•	V. 166
)land's Case, Estate for Life,		•	•	I. 87
, Coyyhold,	•	•	•	330
Ildcot v. Level, Alienation by	Cultom.	_	•	V. 572
liver v. Taylor, id.	-	_	, _	
		•		577
Neale v. Meade, Mortgage	'>	•	-	II. 176
mions v. Tyrer, Devise,	•	•	V1. 9	r, 93, 96
)pey v. Thomasius, Deed,	•	•	•	IV. 305
Irde v. Henning, Mortgage,	•	-		II. 158
— v. Smith, id.	3	-	00.	156, 162
)sbadston v. Stanhope, Reve	er lines	_		
		_	_	459, 463
)swald v. Legh, Prescription,	•		5	III. 563
Iman v. Sheafe, Deed,	•	•	E	IV. 186
	1			Otway
			•	•

Otway v. Hudson, Title Devise, -

Vol. VI. Page 42

VI. 107, 112, 118

III. 163

Pascall

Otway v. Hudion, Title Devise,
Owen v. Griffith, Estate by Stat. Merchant, &c. II. 79
Morgan, Joint Tenancy,
Recovery V. 430
Oxenden v. Penrice, Devise, - VI. 67
v. Skinner, Tithes, III. 71
Oxford Earldom, Case of, Dignities, - 224
Oxon (En) at Leighton, Deed, - IV. 231
Oldir (Ep.) of Ediginton, Editor
Oxwick v. Plummer, Mortgage, - 11. 203
, p _
. •
Pacy v. Knolls, Devise, - VI. 191
Page v. Hayward, Recovery, 433,400
Paget's Case. Estate for Life 1. 7.1, 73
, Deid, IV. 19
Paget v. Paget, id.
Paget of Gee Reuts - III. 36
ragett v. Gee, Kemis
Patie's Care, Carrey,
Fainter V. Edwards, Deta,
V. Jackion, 2720 (808)
V. Schribb, Divige,
Taimer (bit 1.) 5 care, 2 thinking
Papillon v. Voice, Estate Tail,
Devise, VI. 325, 373, 375, 376, 38
Parker v. Blicke, Copyhold, 1. 33
v. Combleford, id 35
v. Constable, Efrate at Will, 27
- v. Gage, Copyhold 36
v. Gerard, Joint Tenancy, - II. 53
—— v. Harvey, Jointure, — I. 22
Wett 1) ffices.
v. Ixtily
T17
v. raikely Deady
Partot (ficiocit) s cait, xim,
1. atmow of the education of the state of th
Parsons v. Freeman, Mortgage,

Parsons v. Freeman, Mortgage,

- v. Petit, Deed,

Partridge v. Whiston, Tithes,

....., Devise,

Pascall v. Wood, Title Copyhold, - Vol. I. I	Page 378
	II. 201
	V. 566
	201, 208
	y. 283
Pawlet v. Pawlet, Deed, IV. 2	263, 268°
Pay's Case, Devise, - VI. 454,	— <u> </u>
Paynell's Case, Dower,	I: 175
Perceble a Perl Towns in Commen	•
Peaceable v. Read, Tenancy in Common, - '-	
	I. 383
Peacock v. Spooner, Deed,	IV. 488
Peake v. Tucker, Franchise,	III. 298
Pearson v. Pearson, Dower, -	· I. 190
·	
	V. 416
- v. Pulley, Mortgage,	II. 152
Peat v. Ongly, Devise,	VI. 68
— v. Powell, id	242
	V. 443
Peers v. Peers, Estate for Life, -	I. 85
Peirson v. Shore, Descent,	III. 398
Peiton v. Banks, Devise,	VI. 253
	V. 474
	I. 261
Pells v. Brown, Devise, - VI. 441,	•
	1. 532
Pembroke (Ld.)'s Case, Recovery, - V.	411, 508
Pembroke (Ld.) v. Jefferies (Ld.) Fine,	110
Pendock v. Makender, Devise,	VI. 67
Pendrill v. Pendrill, Descent,	III. 374
	L 444
Pennant's Case, Deed,	IV. 137
Penne v. Peacock, Fine,	V. 81
Penner v. Jemmet, Mortgage,	II. 202
Ponphrase v. Lansdown (Ld.), Devise,	VI. 130
	I. 90
Penyston v. Lyster, Fine,	V. 176
Perkins v. Sewel, Recovery, -	498
- v. Walker, Deed,	IV. 261
Perrin v. Blake, Devise, - VI. 325, 3	
	IV. 190
Perrot v. Perrot, Estate for Life,	1. 73
Perry v. Marston, Mortgage, -	II. 157
- v. Philips, Trufts,	I. 555
Devise, -	VI. 27
of White id a	410
f 2	Petes
1 2	reich

Peter v. Ruffel, Title Mortgage	Vel. II.	Page 202
Petre (Ld.) v. Blencoe, Tithes, -		L II. 80
Pettus v. Godsalve, Fine, -	•	V. 113
Petty's Case, id	•	42,74
Perty v. Styward, Joint Tenancy, -	-	II. 505
Pettywood v. Cook, Devise,	•	VI. 306
Philips v. Hele, Mortgage, -	•	II. 136
	V	I. 20, 229
Phipard v. Mansfield, id		, 424, 427
Phipps v. Anglesea (E. of), id.	•	88
Pierson v. Garnet, id	-	180
Piggot v. Harrington, Fine, -	-	V. 324
v. Penrice, Deed, -	•	IV. 330
- v. Waller, Recovery, -	•	V. 466
	VI	. 136, 139
Pigot v. Palmer, Recovery, -		V. 400
Pigott v. Salisbury, Fine,	, .	204
Pike v. White, Devise,	→	VI. 36, 44
Pilkington v. Bailey, Trufts,	-	I. 485
v. Stanhope, Alienation by Cultom,	-	V. 569
Pill v. Powers, Prescription, -	-	III. 530
Pilsworth v. Pyet, Deed, -	•	IV. 436
Pimb's Case, Uses, -	•	I. 423
Pimphrase v. Lansdown, Devise,		VI. 55
Pincke v. Thornicroft, Fine,	•	V. 250
Pindar v. Rutter, Rents,	•	III. 351
Pine's Case, Escheat, -	_	521
Pistol v. Riccardson, Devise,	VI	. 211, 215
Pitcairne v. Brase, id		183
Pitt v. Jackson, id	•	162
Pitts v. Snowden, Dower, -	-	I. 185
Platt v. Sleap, Estate-for Years, -	•	265
v. Spring, Remainder,	•	II. 389
Pledgard v. Lake, Kecovery,	-	V. 489
Plumb v. Fiint, Mortgage,	•	II. 203
Plunkett v. Holmes, Remainder, -	306,	442, 445
	-	V. 472
v. Penson, Mortgage, -	_ •	II. 140
Pockley v. Pockley, id		166
Pocklinton v. Bayne, Deed,		IV. 264
Pole v. Pole, Trusts, -	•	I. 482
Pollard v. Luttrell, Fine,	7	V. 240
Pollen v. Husband, Devise,	•	VL 109
Pomery v. Partington, Deed,	•	IV. 303
Poole v- Poole, Devise,	•	VL 351
The second secon	•	Pontam

Popham v. Lancaster, Title Copyhol.	'd	Vol. I.	Page 354
Popley v. Popley, Mortgage,	~, ~		II. 167
Porter v. Bradley, Devise,	-		VI. 449
v. Hammond, Trusts,	-		I. 532
v. Porter, Recovery,	_	•	V. 546
Portland v. Brodger, Devise,	_		VI. 15
Portington (Mary)'s Case, Recover	~v		426, 524
Portsmouth (E. of) v. Essingham (_
Potter v. Potter, Devise, -	· · · · · ·		29 6 1. 33, 110
Poulteney v. Holmes, Deed,	_	•	IV. 161
Powell's Case, Fine, -	_	_	V. 243
Powell v. Beach, id.	_		115
v. Price, Deed,			IV. 485
Poyntz's Case, Fine,	_	_	V. 93
Price v. Langford, id.	_		206
v. Morgan, Remainder,	_	_	II. 434
v. Price, Deed, -	_	_	IV. 490
Prime v. Stebbing, Jointure,		_	I. 232
Pringle v. Child, Prescription,		_	III. 532
	_		I. 231
Probart v. Morgan, Jointure, Deed,	_	_	_
	_	_	259 II 756
Procter v. Cooper, Mortgage,	-	_	II. 156
Profter a Bath (Fn.) Desile	-		157
Proctor v. Bath (Ep.), Devise,	-		460, 533 V. 162
Prodger (Margaret)'s Case, Fine,	-	-	117, 309
Pugh v. Leeds (D. of), Deed,			
Pullerton v. Angus, Deed,	_		IV. 167
Punsancy v. Leader, Prescription,	_	•	III. 527
Purbeck (Ld.)'s, Case, Dignities,	_	- II 060	233, 274
Purefoy v. Rogers, Remainder,			443, 446
Purson's Cafe Fine	_		458, 515 V 745
Purson's Case, Fine,	_	•	V. 146
Justen a Penhack Electe in State	ta Manahant	e See	I. 6
Putten v. Penbeck, Estate by Statu	is the crain	, G <i>t</i> ,	11. 67
ybus v. Mittord, Ufes,	•	_	I. 446
'ye v. Gorge, Trusts, -	-	-	- 54I
Pyne a Don Electe for Life	-	-	II. 383
'yne v. Don, Estate for Life,	-	-	8Q 371 78≈
'yot v. Pyot, Devise, -	-	•	VI. 187

Q.

Quilter v. Mussendine, Title Prescription, Vol. III. Page 561

R.

Raby v. Robinson, Recovery, -	•	V. 394
Radnor v. Vandebendy, Trusts,	•	I. 516
-Raster v. Stock, Devise, -	•	VI. 43
Ragg and Bowley's Cafe, Fine, -	•	V. 40
Rakestraw v. Brewer, Mortgage, -	• •	II. 162
Ramsden v. H:iton, Deed,	-	IV. 391
Rand v. Cartwright, id	-	405
Rapley v. Chaplin, Descent, -	-	III. 483
Rashley v. Master, Devise, -	•	V1. 191
Ratcliffe's Case, Recovery,	-	V. 425
Rawley v. Holland, Uses, -	-	I. 448
Rawlinson v. Green, Alienation by Custom	<i>t</i> , ~	V. 542
Read and Morpeth v. Lrrington, Ujes,	-	I. 445
, Recove	7°F. –	V. 317
Read v. Nash, Deed,		307, 308
- v. Ward, Reversion, -	•	II. 466
Reading v. Royston, Prescription, -	•	III. 555
, Devise,	-	VL 146
Reason v. Sacheverell, Mortgage,		II. 143
, Fine, -	• -	V. 155
Reed v. Hatton, Devise, -	-	VI. 259
Reeve v. Attorney General, Escheat,	•	III. 495
v. Long, Remainder, -	•	П. 336
Reeves v. Gower, Devise,		VI. 254
v. Herne, Condition, -	- -	II. 21
Ren v. Bulkely, Deed,	-	IV. 334
Repps v. Bonham, id.	- .	
Requishe v. Requishe, Fine, -	-	- 447 V. 93
Reve v. Malster, Descent,	•	
Revett v. Joddrell, Copyhold,	-	III. 483
Rex v. Boreston, Descent,	. -	I. 300
- v. Butler, Franchises, -		III. 378
v. Durham (Ep.), Decd,	•	287 TV 20
y. Firebrace, Alienation by Custom,	_	IV. 39
v. Lord of Hendon, Copyhold,		V. 573
The D. Living Or Living Copyrions		I. 342
		Rex

Rex v. Inhabitants of Hermitage,	Title Common.	
8,		I. Page 116
v. Kemp, Offices, -		146
- v. Lenthal, id.	_	•
v. Marsden, Franchise,		- 152 - 287
v. Mead, Fine, -		
	_	V. 229
v. Pergam, Offices, -	•	III. 169
v. Pigott, Recovery, -	•	V. 393
v. Ruffel, Advorvson, -	•	- 35
v. Talbot, Franchise,	• -	- 296
v. Williams, Joint Tenancy,	•	II. 504
Reynell's Case, Offices,	•	III. 143
Reynish v. Martin, Condition,	• •	JI. 26
Reynoldson v. Perkins, Mortgage,	. •	- 253
Rich v. Barker, Deed, -	• • .	IV. 39
Richardson v. Hamilton, Private A	18 7, - .	- 545
Richmond (D. of)'s Case, King's	Grant, -	465
Ridart v. Pain, Devise, -	•	VI. 251
Riddle v. White, Private Act,		IV. 538
Rider v. Smith, Ways, -	•	III. 129
v. Wager, Devise,		VI. 107
Ridley v. Pownall, Offices,	<u>.</u> .	III. 138
Rigden v. Vallier, Deed, -	_ T	V. 426, 457
Right v. Derby, Estate at Will,		
		I. 280
v. Hammond, Devise,	• .	VI. 175
Price, 'id	•	51
v. Ruffel, id		307
v. Sidebotham, id	•	- 123
v. Thomas, Deed, -	- 1	V. 298, 315
River's Case, Devise,	•	VI. 184
Rivetts v. Godson, Deed, -	•	IV. 192
Robert v. Dixall, id.	•	- 263
v. Kingsley, id	•	485
, Alienation by Ci	istom, -	V. 562
Robins v. Crutchley, Dower,	• , •	I. 138
Robinson v. Comyns, Condition,	• •	II. 28
v. Cumming, Recovery,	.	V. 460
v. Cummins, id.	• •	305, 306
- v. Davison, Mortgage,	,	II. 243
v. Hardcastle, Deed,	• •	IV. 272
, Devise,		VI. 555
v. Hicks, id	_ 25	B9, 296, 399
v. Lytton, Remainder,	- 40	77) 49°) 399 II 40*
v. Miller, Devise,		II. 427
	• •	VI. 284
v. Robinson, id	•	293
·	•	Rockingham

Rockingham (Ld.) v. Penrice, Title Rents, Vol. I	II. Page 329
Rockley v. Huggins, Copybold,	I. 326
Roo v. Aistrop, Alienation by Custom, -	V. 561
v. Avis, Devise,	VI. 308
v. Baldwin, Recovery,	V. 484
v. Blackett, Devise,	VI . 308
v. Bolton, id	- id.
v. Dunt, Deed,	IV. 342
v. Ferrars, Prescription,	III. 556
	[V. 187, 422
	II. 14
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	VI. 399, 400
- v. Griffith, Alienation by Custom, -	V. 565
v. Harrison, Condition, -	II. 13
v. Harvey, Devise,	VI. 193
- v. Hicks, Copyhold,	I. 362
Devise,	VI. 38
v. Hillier, Copybold,	I. 370
v. Holms, Devise,	VI. 307
v. Hutton, Copyhold,	I. 373
- v. Jeffery, Devise,	VI. 450
— v. Jones, id	- 25
- v. Mitton, Deed, -	IV. 401
- v. Mulgrave (Ld.), Devise, -	VI. 313
v. Newman, Copybold,	1. 306
v. Parker, Descent,	III. 485
v. Popham, Uses,	I. 445
Deed,	IV. 226
v. Reade, Devise, -	VI. 233
- v. Rees, Estate at Will, -	I. 276
v. Soley, Mortgage,	П. 144
- v. Tranmer, Remainder, -	
v. Wegg, Devise,	VI. 30
v. Weskett, id	- 505
Rogers v. Briggs, Devise,	VI. 321
v. Gibson, id.	- 521
v. Holled, Advorvson,	III. 16
v. Skillecorn, Trusts,	I. 543
Rolls v. Mason, Copyhold, -	
Rook v. Clealand, Reversion,	325 II. 460
- v. Rook, Devise,	VI. 221
Roper v. Ratcliffe, id.	- 88
Roscommon v. Fowke, Deed,	•
	IV. 254
Rose v. Bartlet, Devise, - VI. 205, 20 v. Calland, Tithes,	111. 81 (75)
	Rose

Rose v. Hill, Title Devise,	•	Vol. VI.	Page 412
Ross v. Ewer, Deed,	•	•	IV. 252
- v. Ross, Devise, -	•	•	VI. 44
, Estate Tail,		•	I. 44
Retherham v. Green, Common,		_	III. 114
Rous v. Artis, Copyhold,		_	I. 316
- v. Barker, id		_	•
Rowden v. Malster, id.	_	•	312
Rudstone v. Anderson, Devise,	_	•	338
Rumbold v. Rumbold, id -	_	•	VI. 426
Rundale v. Ecley, id.	• .●	•	44
Rushley v. Manssield, Fine,	•	•	324
Ruffel / Ladw's Cofe Office	•	•	V. 247
Russel (Lady)'s Case, Offices,	•	•	III. 153
Russel v. Hammond, Deed,	100	•	IV. 376
Rutland (E. of)'s Case, Fine,	-	•	V. 137
Rutland (Dis. of) v. Wakeman, 1	Iced,	•	IV. 94
Rutland (Countess of)'s Case, id.		•	206, 222
Rutledge v. Dorrell, id.	•	•	505
Ryal v. Ryal, Trufts,	•	,	1. 473
•	•		- 1

S.

Sabbarton v. Sabbarton, Devise,	. 495, 375
	נינ ינעדי
Sadler v. Bush, Mortgage,	III. 320
Foffin's Cafe Flots for Years	II. 210
Saffin's Case, Estate for Years,	I. 249
, Fine, - V	. 163, 212
yaic v. Freeland, Mortgage,	II. 254
Balford's Case, Fee Simple,	I. 2I
Salisbury (Ld)'s Case, Copyhold,	
Salifbury v. Ashley, Fine,	369
(En) or Dhili-e Al. C	V. 159
- (Ep.) v. Philips, Advowson,	III. 25
v. Hurd, Copybold,	I. 333
salter v. Boteler, Rents,	III. 336
salvin v. Clerk, Fine,	343
v. Thornton, Recovery,	V. 183
Sambourne e Polle De	460
jambourne v. Belke, Recovery,	V. 282
Samme's Case, Deed,	. 432, 452
Minuel V. Evans, Private Act.	512
janders v. Bumford, Estate for Years,	<u> </u>
andford v. Stephens, Copyhold,	1. 267
	324
, and the second of the second	gauda

Sands v. Dixwell, Title Deed,	_	Vol. IV.	Page 490
	_	-	1 20
. Drury, Copyhold,	•	-	I. 307
v. Hemston, id	•		321
Sandys v. Oliff, Common,	•	•	III. 119
Sangon v. Williams, Estate Tail	, –	-	I. 44
Sarjeson v. Cruise, Mortgage,	•	-	II. 195
Sarth v. Blanfrey, Deed,	_	_	IV. 326
Saunder's Case, Estate for Life,	•	•	1. 67
Saunders v. Dehen, Mortgage,	•	- .	II. 211
v. Owen, Offices, -	-	•	III. 137
Savage's Case, Copyhold,	- ,	•	I. 335
Savage v. Humble, Trusts,	•	-	545
Saville's Case, Estate Tail,		_	
	_	_	57 57
Saville v. Blackett, Recovery,	•		V. 467
Sawbridge v. Burton, Tithes,	•	-	III. 90
Sawyer's Cafe, Common, -	-	•	119
Say v. Smith, Fine, -	, -	-	V. 75, 77
Say and Sele Barony, Case of, I	Dignities.	-	III. 201
Say and Sele (Lord) v. Jones, I		•	VI. 378
	⊸ 7a	•	
Comment Harden Provided	Tujis,	•	I. 466
Sayer v. Hardy, Remainder,	-	-	II. 310
- v. Masterman, Devise,	-	- VI.	326, 383
Scatterwood v. Edge, Remainder,		II.	293, 321
	•	VI. 504.	544, 553
Scholes v. Hargreaves, Common,	•	-	III. 95
Scott v. Ayrey, Tithes,	_	_	82
n Rell Deed	_	_	
- v. Bell, Deed,	_	•	IV. 392
v. Fenhouillet, Trusts,	•	•	I. 513
v. Scott, Devise, -	•	•	VI. 147
—— v. Tyler, Condition,	•	•	II. 32
Scrafton v. Quincy, Deed,	•	•	IV. 346
Scribblehill, v. Brett, id	•		408
Scroop v. Scroop, Trusts,		_	
Scrope's Case, Deed, -	_	_	I. 480
		•	IV. 258
Seagood v. Hone, Alienation by Co	ujrom,	-	V. 556
Sear v. Trinity College, Tithes,	-	•	III. 54
Scaward v. Willock, Devise,	•	•	VI. 161
Seily u. Bank, Tithes, -	•	-	III. 58
Selwin v. Selwin, Recovery, -	•	•	V. 353
, Devise, -	•	VI. 22.	114, 128
Semaine v. ——, id	_	-	
,	•	_	37
Semford vi Havel, Franchise,	-	•	Щ. 196
Senhouse v. Christian, Ways,	∸	•	123
Serle v. St. Eloy, Mortgage, -	•	•	II. 169
Seton v. Sinclair, Fine,	-	•	V- 77
	•	Se	ymour's
		J .	

Seymour's Case, Title Estate Tail, - Vol. I.	Page 46
7 * 4	426
	IV. 194
	201, 234
Shafto v. Shafto, Mortgoge, -	-II. 181
Shailard at Roken Device	_
Shailard v. Baker, Devise,	VI. 258
Shakespear v. Peppin, Common,	III. 110
Shapland v. Radlen, Copyhold,	1. 315
v. Smith, Trufts,	464
-, Recovery,	V. 461
Devise, -	WI. 379
Sharington v. Strotton, Recovery,	V. 401
	IV. 189
Sharp's Case, id	103
Sharpe v. Scarborough, Mortgage,	II. 140
Shaw v. Bull, Devise,	VI. 245
and Weigh, id	361
- v. Wright, id	264
Shecomb v. Hawkins, Deed, -	IV. 305
	364, 50 5
Shelburne v. Biddulph, Reversion,	JU 400
	II. 493
Sheffield as Orners (I.d.) Posice	V. 201
Sheffield v. Orrery (Ld.), Devise,	VI. 553
Shelley's Case, Remainder,	II. 45 I
Deed,	IV. 473
, Recovery, - V. 353, 361,	372, 428
——————————————————————————————————————	389, 392,
394, 402.	1
Shelley v. Wright, Deed,	IV. 430
Shephard v. Newland, Devise, -	VI. 242
Sheppard v. Gibbons, id	411
Sherley v. Fagg, Mortgage,	II. 207
Sherlock's Case, Fine,	V. 93
Shires v. Glascock, Devise,	VI. 60
Shirley v. Watts, Mortgage,	II. 141
Short v. Smith, Devise,	VI. 98
Shortridge v. Lamplugh, Deed,	IV. 201
Shove v. Pinckie, Devise,	VI. 198
Shrapnel v. Vernon, Beed, -	IV. 177
Shrewsbury (Lady)'s Case, Estate at Will, -	I. 27α
Shrewsbury (E. of)'s Case, Offices, -	
Shrowthury at Shrowthurn Elect Tail	III. 155
Shrewibury v. Shrewibury, Estate Tail,	I. 39
Shute v. Shute, Dower,	139
Shuttleworth v. Barber, Remainder,	II. 316
v. Garnett, Copyhold,	I. 357
g 2 Shu	ttleworth

Shuttleworth v. Laywick,	Tule Mortgage,	Vol. II.	Page 143
Sidney v. Sidney, Jointura,	•	. .	I. 226
Silvester v. Wilson, Trufts,	_		465
Simmon's Case, Recovery,	• •	-	V. 450
Simpson v. Turner, id.	•	-	406
Sims v. Bennett, Tithes,	•	•	III. 56
Skinner v. Laud, Recovery,	•	•	V. 413
Slingsby's Case, Deed,	,		IV. 68
Sloccomb v. Glubb, id	• -	•	- · 19:
Small v. Dale, Descent,	•	-	III. 410
Smartle v. Penhallow, Copy	sheld.	-	L 319
- v. Scholar, Devise,	-	_	VI. 182
- v. Williams, Mort		. •	II. 107
Smith v. Abel, Fine,	6 ² 6 ² ,	_	V. 203
v. Angel, Reversion,	~	_	II. 459-
v. Ashton, Deed,			IV. 331
v. Baker, Trufts,	-		I. 487
- v. Barnaby, Recovery	- , -		V. 440
v. Clifford, id.	,		
v. Coffin, Devise,		_	475 VI. 249
v. Dean and Chapter	rof Se Paul's	 Aliznatica	he Cuffeen
v. Dean and Chapter	r Or 19t. Laur 3, -		V. 574
v. Dormer and Parkl	hurst Remainder	_	II. 411
	-	,	VI. 50
v. Evans, Derife,			
v. Farnaby, Descent,		_	III. 410
v. Feverell, Common,	_		104;
v. Guyon, Trufts,		_	I. 543
v. How, Common,	•		III. 97
v. Kemp, Franchise,	•	•	298
- v. Maplebank, Deed,	•	••	IV. 157
v. Martin, id	₩••	•	40
v. Page, Copyhold,		- tt	L 296
v. Parker, Reversion,			486, 489
v. Parkhurst, Deed,	• •		IV. 418
- v. Risley, id.	•		191
v. Sherborne, Tithes,	• •	**	III. 37
v. Stapleton, Fine,	•	V .	136, 145.
v. Tindal, Devise,	•		VI. 258
v. Trigg, id	•	_	146
v. Wheeler, Trusts,	-		49, 557
Deed,	• •		340, 360
v. Williams, Tithes,	•.	•	Ш. бъ
			55
Smith and Lane's Case, Copy.		•	L 386
Smithley v. Chomley, Advo-	rvjon, -	T	III 22
			Suagg

Eman as Pour Wiele Counted ' STel T	Danaska
	Page 360
	IV. 231
	532, 536
	143, 321
Snow v. Cutler, Remainder, -	II. 330
- Devise,	VI. 455
Soby v. Molyns, Estate for Life,	I. 65
Solly v. Whitfield, Fine,	V. 158
Solme v. Bullock, Common,	III. 101
Somerset v. France, Copyhold,	I. 347
Sonley v. Clockmakers, Trusts,	489
Soule v. Gerrard, Devise,	VI. 270
South v. Alleyne, Trusts,	I. 465
Southby v. Stonehouse, Devise,	VI. 402
Southcot v. Stowell, Uses,	I. 449
Southcote v. Sowell, Devise, -	VI. 367
Southern v. Bellasis, Rents,	III. 327
Spalding v. Shalmer, Trusts,	I. 542
- v. Spalding, Devise,	VI. 456
Sparrow v. Hardcastle, id	136, 118
v. Shaw, id	- 288
Speake v. Speake, Jointure, -	I. 222
Spencer v. Boyes, Deed,	IV. 80
v. Marlborough (D. of), id.	498, 504
Spencer's Case, id	69, 72
Spirt v. Bence, Devise,	VI. 306
Spragge v. Stone, id	• •
Spranger v. Barnard, Deed, -	ICI IV ore
	IV. 252
Spring v. Cæsar, Condition,	II. 3
St. John et Holford Montage	357
St. John v. Holford, Mortgage,	142
- v. Turner, id	153
Et Sambon (Dans of Cofe D. 4. 19	V. 245
St. Stephen (Dean of)'s Case, Private Act,	IV. 519
Stackpole v. Beaumont, Condition,	II. 32
Stafford v. Buckley, Estate Tail,	I. 35
- v. Selby, Mortgage, -	II. 164
stamford (E. of) v. Hobart, Devise,	VI. 370
itanden's Case, Deed,	IV. 375
itanden v. Bullock, id	376, 380
itanford's Case, Fine,	V. 180
itanhope v. Thacker, Recovery,	515
v. Verney, Mortgage,	II. 231
tanley v. Leigh, Deed,	IV. 509
tanton v. Barney, Alienation by Custom, -	V. 585
4	Stapilton
•	_

•
Stapilton v. Stapilton, Title Deed, - Vol. IV. Page 216
Staples v. Maurice, id 452
Staunton v. Barnes, Copybold, - I. 319
Steele v. Wright, Rents, III. 353
Stephens v. Bailey, Escheat, 497
v Stephens, Devise, VI. 447, 511, 517, 521
v. Wall, Advowson, III. 36
v. Arthur, Eftate for Life, - 95
v. Bretridge, Deed, IV. 476
v. Olive, id 398
Stileman v. Ashdown, Trusts, I. 480, 483
Stiles v. Cowper, id 134
Stirling v. Penlington, Tenancy in Common, - II. 551, 560
Stockman v. Whither, Estate for Life, I. 78
Stokes v. Oliver, Recovery, V. 394, 508
Stone v. Grubham, Deed, - IV. 373
Stones v. Heurtly, Devise, VI. 412
Stork v. Fox, Fine, V. 1c4
Stowell'v. Zouch, id 188, 191, 193, 194, 211
San Gord of Managementh David
Strafford v. Wentworth, Rents, III. 328
Strange Barony, Case of, Dignities, 208
Strangeways v. Newton, Remainder, II. 376
Stratsield v. Dover, Recovery, - V. 494
Strathmore v. Bowes, Estate Tail, - I. 84
, Deed, - IV. 410
- VI. 138, 139
Stratton v. Best, Joint-tenancy, II. 502
Streatsield v. Streatsield, Deed, - IV. 486
Strilly's Case, Fine, V. 113
Stringer v. New, Descent, III. 468
v. Phillips, Recovery, - V. 412
Strutt v. Baker, Tithes, - III. 86
Stud and Courtney's Case, Fine, V. 107
Sturt v. Mellish, Trusts, I. 555
Styant v Walker, Common, III. 118
Sussolk (E. of) v. Howard, Recovery, - V. 456
Suffolk v. Wroth., Deed, IV. 304
Sumner v. Partridge, Curtesy, I. 121
Sunie v. Howes, Fine, V. 196
Surry v. Pigot, Ways, III. 129
Sustan's Cole Office
Sutton's Case, Offices, III. 144, 153
Sutton v. Rolfe, Dower, - 1. 163
Sutton Sutton

Sutton v. Stone, Title Alienation by	Custom,	Vol. V.	Page 559
Estate Tail,	•		I. 42
v. Sutton, Devise,		•	VI. 97
Swann v. Broom, Recovery,	•	•	V. 364
Swannock v. Lifford, Trufts,	•	\ -	I. 518
Swanton v. Raven, Deed, -	-	-	IV. 22I
Sweetapple v. Bindon, Curtesy,	•	•	I. 120
Swift v. Gregson, Deed,		•	IV. 266
- v. Eyres, id	•	•••	42
- v. Roberts, Devise, -	•	-	VI. 27
Sydney Barony, Case of, Dignities,		•	III. 212
Sym's Case, Deed, -	•	•	IV. 61
Symance v. Tattam, Remainder,	-	•	II. 395
Symes v. Symonds, Mortgage,	•	• .	128
Symonds v Cudmore, Reversion,	-	- '	IL 492
, Fine,		- ,	V. 201
- v. Gibson, Offices,	•	•	III. 162

T.

			
Talbot's Case, Rents, -	•	•	III. 359
Taltarum's Case, Estate Tail,	•	•	- I. 54
		V. 228. 4	.22, 426, 442
Tansield v. Rogers, Rents,	~		III. 315
		_	IV. 427
Tapner v. Marlott, Deed,	•		•
Tarback v. Marbury, id.	-		- 375
Target v. Gaunt, Devise, -	•	•	VI. 489
Tashburgh v. Echlin et al, Mortgo	ge,	-	II. 102
Taster v. Marriatt, Trusts,	•	~	1. 485
Taverner v. Cromwell, Copyhold,		#	- 376
, Descent,	•	•	III 478
Taylor u. Biddall, Devise,		•	VI. 446
- u. Horde, Tenancy in Con	2021021 _	_	II. 559
. 	-	_	III. 543
, Prescription,	-	•	
, Deed,	•	-	IV. 34, 110
Recovery,	;		V. 308, 513
- v. Taylor, Trusts,	•	•	L 479
v. Vale, Deed,	-	•	IV. 177
- v. Wheeler, Mortgage,	4	•	II. 206
Recovery,	•	•	V. 553, 566
v. Whitehead, Ways,	•	•	III. 127
	*	<u>_</u>	VI. 227
Teat v. Strong, Devise,		Ħ	
		•	Tendril

•
Tendril v. Smith, Title Devise, - Vol. VI. Page 218
Teverdale v. Coventry, Reversion, 11. 489
41 1 0 C Pr 57 -
Theebridge v. Kilburne, Deed, - IV. 489
Thelluson v. Thelluson, Devise, VI. 489
Theobalds v. Duffy, Devise, - 523
Thimpland v. Courtenay, id ib.
<u>:</u>
Thomas v. Howell, Condition, U. 41
v. Penneck, Devise, VI. 431
- v. Porter, Copyhold, - I. 380
v. Thomas, Deed, IV. 265
Thomasin v. Mackworth, Fine, - V. 168
Thomson v. Lawley, Devise, - VI. 160, 216
- v. Leach, Remainder, - Il. 361
v. Trafford, id 122
Thong v. Bedford, Devise, VI. 329
Thornborough v. Baker, Mortgage, H. 196
Thornhill v. Evans, id 19t
Thorp v. Bendlowes, Tithes, IIL 63
Thowroughgood's Case, Deed, - IV. 27, 28, 103
Thursday a Conningham Alienties to Culture V. 160
Thrustout v. Cunningham, Alienation by Custom, V. 565
——————————————————————————————————————
Thruxton v. Attorney General, Escheat, III. 498, 511
Thurban v. Pantry, Recovery, V. 412
Thurman's Case, Deed, - IV. 436
Thursby v. Plant, id 72
Thwaytes v. Dye, id 263
Tickner v. Tickner, Devise, VI. 124
Tiffin v, Tiffin, Trufts, L 510
Tilbury v. Barbut, Devise, VI. 440
Timewell v. Perkins, id 194, 239
Timmins v. Rawlinson, Estate at Will, - 1. 289
Tinney v. Tinney, fointure, 204
Tippin (Sir T.)'s Case, Deed, - IV. 474
Tippin v. Cosin, Uses, - I. 444, 146
Tipping v. Pigot, Remainder, • U. 385, 416
Tollett v. Tollett, Deed, IV. 327
Tomlinson v. Deighton, Devise, - VI. 301
Tong v. Robinson, Reversion, II. 485
Advowson, III. 13
Torret

Torret v. Frampton, Title Devise, Vol. VI.	Page 409
	II. 191
Tottersal's Case, Franchise,	
	I. 224
	. IV. 527
	II. 394
	V. 86
M	I. 90
- v. Lethulier, Remainder, - II.	281, 287
Travel v. Danvers, Trusts,	1. 558
	V. 114
Tregonwell v. Strahan, Remainder,	II. 432
Trelawney v. Ep. Winton, Offices,	III. 138
Trench v. Cadell, Devise,	VI. 473
Treport's Case, Deed,	IV. 128
Trevor v. Trevor, Deed,	482
	V. 250
Trimmer v. Jackson, Devise,	VI. 68
	I. 359
Tristram v. Baltinglass, Deed, -	IV. 296
Trott v. Dawson, Trusts,	I. 557
v. Vernon, Devise, -	V!. 430
Troughton v. Troughton, Mortgage, -	II. 145
Troward v. Cailland, Advoruson,]	III. 11
Tuckherham v. Jeffries, Devise, -	VI. 405
Tuckfield v. Buller, Tenancy in Common, -	II. 565
Tuffnell v. Page, Devise,	VI. 76
Turin's Case, Reversion,	II. 467
Turnham v. Cooper, Deed, -	IV. 437
Turner v. Hodges, Escheat, -	III. 495
v. Huster, Devise,	VI. 208
v. Turner, Estate Tail, -	I. 35
Recovery,	V. 382
Tweddell v. Tweddell, Mortgage,	II. 186
Tweedale v. Coventry, id.	172
Twine's Case, Deed,	IV. 382
Twisden v. Lock; id	464
Tyrconnel v. Ancaster (D. of), id.	287, 290
Fyrrell's Case, Trusts,	1. 459
Tyte v. Willis, Devise,	VI. 278

U.

Idall v. Udall, Title Romaine Upton v. Baffett, Deed,	der, -	Vd.	II. Pag	TV. 383
v. Dawkins, Franchife,		•	•	III. 298
Urmston v. Pate, Doed, -	•	•	•	IV. 90
Uvedale v. Ettrick, Trufts,	•	•	-	. I. 558
v. Ovedale, Effate for	r Lifez	-		- 74
	•	•	•	H. 280
	٧.			
Valentine v. Penny, Common,	-	•	•	III. 101:
Vane v. Fletcher, Alienation l	o Culton.	1	•	V. 566
v. Lord Barnard, Effate	for Life,	•	•	I. 80
Vaughan v. Atkins, Copyhold,		•	-	- 329
Alienation	es de Call	oets.	-	V. 546
Vaux v. Jesferen, Offices,		•	•	III. 167
Vavisor's Case, Deed,	•	•	-	IV. 208
Veale v. Prior, Offices,	- • .	•	•	III. 143
Veizy v. Pinwell, Devise,	•		-	VI. 521
Ven v. Howell, Copyhold,	•	•	•	L 319
Venables v. Morris, Trusts,	•		-	460
	•	, •		IV. 36, 479
Vernon's Cafe, Jointure,	- 1	•		I. 203, 207
Vernon v. Jones, Devise,	•	•	-	VI. 125
- v. Vernon, Rents,	~		•	III. 365
Vick v. Edwards, Uses,	•	-		I. 447, 452
	•			V. 201
Villareal v. Galway, Dower,	. •		~	I. 185
Villars v. Beaumont, Recover	~~	•	.	V. 401
v. Handley, Reversion,	,,	•	•	II. 459
Vintner's Case, Offices,		•	~	III. 151
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•			
	W.			

Waddy v. Newton, Fine,
Wade's Case, Mortgage,

Alienation by Custom,

Wafer v. Mocato, Title Condition,	•	Vd. II. Page 48
Wagstaff v. Wagstaff, Deed,	•	- IV. 255
, Devife,	•	- VI. 72
Wake v. Wake, Dower, -	•	- I. 181
Wakefield v. Hodgson, Fine,		V. 39
Wakeford's Case, Copyhold,		- I 386
Waker v. Snow, Deed, -	•	- IV. 481
Waldron v. Roscarriot, Fine,	_	- V. 105
Walker v. Burrowes, Deed,	•	IV. 375
v. Denne, Fee Simple,	•	- I. 6
v. Hall, Deed,		IV. 186
- v. Hammersley, Advowson,		- MI. 36
v. Okenden, Fine,	_	V. 114
- Wakeman, Deed,	_	
- v. Walker, Copybold,		IV. 299
Wall v. Thurborne, Deed,	•_	I. 33.1
Wallis v. Paine, Tithes,	~ ,	- IV. 235
	d \ DesiG	- III. 59
Walpole (Ld.) v. Cholmondelly (L	u.), Deege,	VI. 137
Walpole v. Conway (Ld.), Deed,	•	- IV. 244
Waltond v. Hill, Condition,	•	II. 43
Walter v. Drew, Devise,	•	VI. 283, 474
Weiten er Town Title	-,	IV. 119
Walton v. Tryon, Tithes,		III . 60, 62
Ward v. Everett, Deed,	.	IV. 452
v. Lambert, id		- 178
v. Walthew, Recovery,	•	- V. 404
v. Ward, Dower,	-	- I. 182
Warde v. Warde, Devise,	• •	VI. 38
Waring v. Whale, Fine,	• ,	- V. 65
Warner's Case, Tithes,	-	III. 58
Warner v. Baynes, Joint Tenancy,	. •	- II. 534
v. White, Devise,	•	VI. 152
Warneford v. Thompson, id.	•	439
v. Warneford, id.	_	- 50
Warren (ex Dem. Webb) v. Grevil	ie, Recovery,	V. 291, 293
v. White, Devije,	-	VI. 401
Warrington (Ld.) v. Booth, id.	•	- 435
Warscombe v. Carrell, Fine,	• -	V. 92
Wase v. Petty, Alienation by Custom,	•	- 588
Watson w. Cox, Recovery, -	, 🐙	- 414
v. Lockley, id.	•	- 418
Watts v. Ball, Trufts, -	7	I. 494
v. Birkett, Fine,	,	V. 231
v. Fullarton, Devise, -	.	- VI. 122
Weale p. Lower, Effate Tail,	• •	L 44
b 3		Weale

Veale v. Lower, Title Remainder, Vol. II. Pag	e 331, 450, 451
, Fine,	_ V 201
Vealthy v. Bosville, Devise,	- VI. 45%
	_ 150
Vebb v. Claverdon, id.	231, 258, 27
v. Hearing, id.	II. 20
v. Herring, Copyhold,	- 17
v. Jones, Mortgage,	- II.
v. Russel, id	IV. 7
	48
v. Webb, id.	_ 22
v. Worsfield, id	VI. 40
Nebster's Case, Devise,	III. 34
Neeks v. Peach, Rents,	- V. 44
- Recovery,	·
v. Słake, Common,	III. 11
Wegg v. Villers, Remainder, -	II. 345, 36
Welby v. Welby, Fine,	• V. 24
Weldon v. Ebor' (Duc.), id.	_ 25
Wellock v. Hammond, Devise, -	VI. 2
Wentworth's Case, Offices,	I. 10
Wentworth Barony, Case of, Dignities,	— III. 20
Wentworth (Sir B.)'s Case, Recovery,	V. 398, 51
Wermedale (Roger D.)'s Case, Fine,	- I
West v. Erissey, Deed,	IV. 464, 4
Westby v. Kiernan, id	523, 525, 5
Westfaling v. Westfaling, Advowson,	
Weyland's Case, Fine, -	V , 1
Weyley v. Tancard, Deed, -	IV.)
. Tancred, Fine, -	_ V. i
v. Thompson, Ways,	_ III. 1
Whenton a Cresham Devile	_ VI. 2
Wharton v. Gresham, Devise,	_ I. 2
- v. King, Copyhold,	, =
Wharton, Estate Tail,	_ V. 4
Wheeler v. Heseltine, Recovery,	T .
v. Thoroughgood, Estate for Years,	VI.
v. Waldron, Devise,	Į.
Whelpdale v. Cookson, Trusts,	_
Whetstone v. Bury, id.	IV.
Whichcock v. Fox, Deed,	II.
Whichcot v. Fox, Condition,	I.
Whichcote v. Laurence, Trusts,	•
Whitchurch v. Whitchurch, id.	· VI
, Devise,	•
White v. Carter, id.	- W

White v. Collins, Title Devise, Vol. VI. Page	ge 355, 307
and Ewer, Mortgage, -	
	II. 152
v. Ewer, Prescription,	III. 565
v. Pigeon, Mortgage,	II. 157
v. Stringer, Deed,	IV. 399
v. Thornburgh, Alienation by Custom, -	V. 578
Whitfield v. Bewit, Estate for Life,	I. 75
, Remainder, -	II. 430
- v. Taylor, Jointure,	
	I. 219
Whitelock's Case, Rents, -	IIL 323
Whitlock's Case, Deed,	IV. 306
Whittingham's Case, id	- 107
, Escheat, -	III. 495
Whitwell v. Masters, Recovery,	V. 413
Whichalse v. Short, Mortgage,	II. 256
Whyte v. West, id	•
▼	471
Wicherley v. Wicherley, Jointure, -	I. 2,19
Wickham v. Enfield, Dower,	137
Widlake v. Harding, Devise,	VI. 233
Wigley v. Blackwal, Condition,	11 42
	II. 42
Wild's Case, Common,	· IIJ. 102
	VI. 280
Wild v. Wells, Dower,	I. 171
Wilford v. Beezley, Mortgage,	II. 201
Wilkins v. Whiting, Devise, -	
Willinson of College Educate Mill	VI. 332
Wilkinson v. Colley, Estate at Will,	- I. 285
- v. Merryland, Devise,	VI. 230
v. South, id	493
Willett v. Winnell, Mortgage,	II. 91
Williams v. Duke of Bolton, Estate for Life,	I. an
Demainden	I77
, Remainder,	II. 281
- v. Brown, Devise,	- VI. 417
v. Owens, id.	122
v. Sorrel, Mortgage, -	II. 122
, Deed,	IV. 352
Williamson v. Codrington, id.	
	66
	I. 543
Willington v. Willington, Devise, -	VI. 473
Willion v. Berkeley, Estate Tail,	- I. 36
Willis v. Jermin, Deed,	IV. 31
v. Lucas, Devise,	VI. 181
v. Shorrall, Fine,	V. 172
v. Willis, Trufts,	_
3X7:11auahba a. 337:11auahba : 1	1. 471
Willoughby v. Willoughby, id.	506, 515
Mortgage,	II. 216, 234
	Willoughby
•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Willoughby de Broke Barony, Case of, Title Dignities, Vol. III. Page 205,	20
Willow's Case, Copybold, I. 353,	
Willows v. Lidcot, Devise, - VI.	
Wills v. Palmer, User, I.	
	• •
Wilson v. Bayley, Remainder, - II.	
v. Carter, Deed, - IV.	
v. Kirkshaw, Advoruson, 7 - III.	_
Wilton and Fairfax, Recovery, - V.	-
Winchester (Ep.)'s Case, Tithes, - III.	
(M. of)'s Case, Recovery, V. 283, 437,	
Wind v. Jekyll, Devise, - VI.	•
Windsmore v. Hobart, Deed, - IV, 424,	431
Windsor (Dean of) v. Glover, Rents, - III.	_ /
Winne Littleton, Mortgage, - II.	, 190
Winnington's Case, Uses, I.	449
Winnington v. Foley, Remainder, - IL	. 3 91
Winton's Case, Rents, III.	, 314
Winter v. Loveden, Deed, - IV. 299,	311
Wirty v. Pemberton, Copybold,	, 384
Wescott's Case, Joint Tenancy, II. 499,	, 519
Wiseman's Case, Deed, - IV. 188,	, 19I ,
	503
Wiseman v. Crow, id	399
Wilham v. Lewis, id	377
Withers v. Withers, Trusts, , I	. 487
Wood (Alton)'s, Case, Private Act, - IV. 535	, 544
	. 281
v. Cecil, Private AEI, - IV	. 536
	. 69
v. Reigniold, Femainder, - II	376
	48;
	200
	. 35
Wooden v. Osborn, Devise, VI	. 192
Woodhouse v. Braysield, Fine,	246
The second secon	300
	378
	443
	353
	- 335 A1
Woodman v. Blake, Condition,	168
Woodward v. Fox, Offices,	• ,
Worledge a Kingswell Combold	327
AND THE PERSON AND TH	OTTA

Worral v. Miller, Title Tithes,	•	Vol. II	I. Page 64
Worsley (ex parte), Recovery,	-		V. 345
- v. Stuart, Estate for Life,			I. 67
Wortley v. Birkhead, Mortgage,	•		208, 244
Wotton v. Hale, Fine, -	•	-	V. 155
v. Shirt, Rents " -	•	-	111. 357
Wray v. Williams, Trusts, -	-	•	I. 531
Wright v. Booth, Fine, -	•	-	V. 245
- v. Cadogan (Ld.), Deed,	-		IV. 236
v. Hammond, Devise,	•	•	VI. 462
v. Holford, id	-	420, 421,	423, 427
v. Kemp, Alienation by Custo	m,		V. 557
v. Pearson, Devise, -		339, 342,	
v. Pilling, Mortgage,	•	-	II. 214
and Wickham (Mayor of),	Fine,	7	1. 16; 226
v. Wright, Devise, -	_		VI. 522
Wrightson v. Hudson, Deed,	-	-	IV. 349
Wykes v. Tyllerd, id	•	• •	179
Wyndham v. Chetwind, Devise,	•	•	VI. 67
Wynn v. Wynn, id	ı	•	151
Wynne v. Cookes, Copybold,	•	•	I. 389
v. Hawkins, Devise, -	,	•	VI. 178
v. Littleton, id.	•	•	239
v. Lloyd, Recovery, -	•	v.	346, 356
v. Williams, Trusts,			531, 547
v. Wynne, Recovery, -	V.	342, 355,	

Y.

Yate v. Windham, Joint Tenancy,	÷	~	II. 531
Yates v. Hambly, Mortgage, -	•	•	159
Yelverton v. Yelverton, Deed,	•	•	IV. 188
York (D. of) v. Marsham, Copybold,	. •		- I. 379
York v. Stone, Joint Tenancy,	•	•	II. 525
Young v. Holmes, Devise,		•	VI. 20
v. Stoel, Offices,	•	II	I. 145, 153

Zouch

Z.

Zonch	v. Bamfield, Title Fine, -	Vol.	V. Page 138
210000	v. Parsons, Deed, -	•	IV. 15
	v. Thomson, Fine,	•	V. 230
	v. Willingale, Estate at Will,		- I. 282
-	v. Woolston, Deed,	•	IV. 261, 333

END OF THE NAMES OF CASES.

ABATEMENT, I. 14.

must be avoided by entry or continual claim, id.
the entry of a younger brother upon the death of the ancestor
is not an abatement, 15.

where a coparcener enters specially claiming the whole land, she gains her sisters moiety by abatement, II. 539.

ABATEMENT OF WRITS,

a writ of partition between joint tenants does not abate by the death of one of them, II. 530. no original writ abates by the death of a king or queen, V. 16.

ABATOR,

₹...

may make a valid assignment of dower, I. 161. distinguished from a tenant at sufferance, 284. cannot grant a copyhold, 316.

ABBOTS.

who held per baroniam were obliged to attend Parliament, III. 181.

ABEYANCE,

of the freehold defined, I. 15. not favored in law, id. of the fee-simple defined, 19. not favored in law, id. of a dignity, III. 245. See Dignities. of a remainder, II. 448.

ACCEPTANCE OF RENT,

after disclaimer, bars the lord of his writ, I. 23. is not of itself a waiver of a notice to quit, 274. may dispense with the forfeiture of a copyhold, 377 when it bars an escheat, III. 499. consirms a voidable lease, IV. 131. I. 43.

ACCIDENTAL FIRE,

how far a tenant for life is answerable, I. 79.

Q. whether a tenant by the curtesy is answerable, 124.

Q. whether a downess is answerable, 157.

how far a tenant for years is answerable, 257.

ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT, ACTION OF,

lies against a tenant by statute elegit, &c. II. 73-lies between joint tenants, 518.

ACCUMULATION, TRUSTS OF,

doctrine of accumulations previous to the statute, 39,40 Geo. 3. c. 98. VI. 524, 564. doctrine of accumulations since the stat. 568. equity will support a trust of accumulation pro tame, 569.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT, See Statutes.

perpetuities by act of parliament, IV. 506.

private act (See Private act), id.

ACTION,

of account, See Account. for avoiding fines, See Fines, V. 232. of debt, See Debt. upon a covenant, IV. 87. for recovering dower, See Dower. of ejectment, See Ejectment. for injuring the inheritance lies in favor of a reversioner, II. 498. of trespals, See Trespals. of trover, See Trover. for fallifying recoveries, See Recovery. of waste, See Waste. A right of action, cannot be transferred, I. 250. will not support a contingent freehold remainder. II. 327.

may stand in jointure, 500. ACTON BURNELL, stat. of, II. 60.

ADMEASUREMENT OF DOWER,

when an heir shall have a writ of admeasurement, I. 168.

ADMINISTRATORS, See Executors and Administrators.

ADMISSION of a Clerk to a Benefice, III. 18.

ADMITTANCE OF COPYHOLDERS, See Copyhold.

ADULTERY,

but not of curtely, 125nor of jointure, 210, 242-

INDEX,

ADULTERY—continued.

will not prevent a court of equity from supporting a jointress, I. 220.

Q. whether a woman noble by marriage forfeits her dignity by adultery, III. 221.

ADVERBS OF TIME,

effect of, in the limitation of remainders, II. 295.

ADVERSE POSSESSION,

necessary to the operation of the statute of limitations, III. 554.
and to the operation of a fine, V. 217.

ADVICE, words of, when they raise a trust in a devise, VI. 176.

ADVOWSONS, III. 2.

held to lie in tenure, 500.

distinction between an advowson and a right of nomination, 3.

Appendant, 4.

may become advowsons in gross, 5.

an advowson may cease for a time to be appendant, and become so again, 6.

are assets, 14.

In gross,

may be conveyed to uses, I. 408.

cannot be extended on an elegit, II. 71, III. 13.

where equity will direct them to be fold for payment of debts, III. 13.

their intails may be barred by fine, V. 144, and recovery, 381.

presentative, collative, and donative, III. 7.

what estate may be had in an advowson, 8.

are subject to dower and curtesy, 9.

are alienable, 10.

are devisable, VI. 21.

any number of presentations may be granted, III. to.

a right of presentation goes to executors, 22. may be devised, VI. 41.

a grant of the next presentation does not become void on the crown's acquiring a right to present, III. 11.

may be mortgaged, but the mortgagees cannot present, II. 122, III. 12, 26.

are affets for payment of debts, III. 13, 14. are not within the statutes of limitation, 561.

2 Presentation,

ADVOWSONS—continued.

Presentation,
distinguished from nomination, III. 3.
must be in writing, 15.
may be revoked, 16.
who may present, 11.

a husband seised jure uxoris must present in his wife's name and his own, id.

tenants by curtefy and dower, 22.

joint tenants, 23. coparceners, id.

tenants in common, 25.

effects of the partition of an advowson held in joint tenancy, coparcenary, or common, id.

a mortgagor is entitled to nominate, 26.

Q. whether a cognizee by statute of a manor to which an advowson is appendant may present, 28.

a bankrupt, id.

who are incapable of prefending, lunatics, aliens, and outlaws, 31. popilh reculants, and their trustees, 32.

when confidered fimoniacal, 34.

Examination of the Clerk,

belongs to the bishop, 17.
remedies of the clerk and patron against the bishop in refusing to institute without cause, id.

Admission, 18. Institution, id. Induction,

belongs of common right to the archdeacon, id. form of induction, 19.

Lapse, id.

Simony, 32.

what contracts and presentations are simoniacal, 34 general bonds for resignation are void, 42.

but not special bonds, id. descend to the whole blood, 418.

what seisin makes a possessio fratris, id.

what number the colleges of Winehester, Westminker, and Eton may purchase, IV. 23.

will pass by bargain and sale, 177.
by covenant to stand seised, 187.
and by lease and release, 198.
since may be levied of advowsons, V. 200.

þE

ADVOWSONS—continued.

by what words an advowson will pass in a fine, V. 103. an intail of an advowson cannot be discontinued, 236. a recovery may be suffered of an advowson, although a writ of entry in the post does not lie, 277, 381, are devisable, VI. 21.

AFTERMATH,

Q. whether titheable, III. 59.

AGENT.

notice to him is notice to the party, IV. 353, 357, 362.

AGISTMENT TITHES, See Tithes,

AGREEMENT,

to settle lands as a jointure is a good equitable bar of dower, I. 202.

will be enforced in equity, although the wife be guilty adultery, 220.

to surrender a copyhold does not entitle the lord to a fine, 342.

restraining an equity of redemption, is void, II. 89. for partition, how far it binds a joint tenant, 535,

for partition, by husbands of joint tenants, will not bind the heirs of the joint tenants, 536.

by an infant to levy a fine or insfer a recovery to uses, will not amount to a declaration of uses, IV 225.

to convey lands, will operate in equity as a revocation of a devise, VI. 107.

articles of agreement, See Articles,

ALIENATION,

by a tenant in tail is not void but voilable, and creates a discontinuance, I. 45.

uses were alienable, 409.

trusts are alienable, 493.

conditions restraining it construed strictly, II. 11.

a tenant for life or years may be restrained by proviso, id. IV. 506.

may be restrained by act of parliament, id.

how long a power of alienation may be suspended, IV. 495. See Perpetuities and Executory Devise.

of an equity of redemption, II. 126.

of advowsons, III. 10.

of tithes impropriate, 70.

a dignity cannot be aliened, 230.

of offices, when an offence against the statute 5 & 6 Edward VI, 160.

ALIENATION—continued.

prevents an escheat, 495.

origin and progress of the power of alienation, IV. 3. fines for alienation of lands held in capite, 7. of copyholds, See Alienation by Custom.

fines are due to the lord, I. 342.

if contrary to custom produces a forfeiture, 361. of crown lands, IV. 566. essects of, in revoking a devise, See Devise,

ALIENATION BY CUSTOM, V. 533.

alienation of copyholds by furrender and admittance, id. Surrender,

what furrenders are valid, 535.

the word furrender is necessary, id.

the surrender must transfer the lands to the lord, id. of surrenders in and out of court, and to the ster: ard, id.

of furrenders by attorney, 536.

if the uses be indorsed on the surrender, a declaration of uses is unnecessary, 537.

Who may furrender, id.

a seme covert jointly with her husband, 537.

a custom that she shall surrender alone is not good, it in what case she may surrender alone, 538.

a mere possibility cannot be surrendered, 538.

nothing but a legal estate can be surrendered, id.

a trust estate will pass without surrender, 539.

to whose use a surrender may be made, id.

a husband may render to the use of his wise, id.

where a surrender to the use of a person in estate

good, id. Presentment, 540...

Admittance, 541.

must be entered on the court rolls, 542.

form of the entry, id.

what will amount to an admittance, id. must be according to the surrender, 542.

the court of king's bench will compell the lord to admit, 544.

fines are due en admittance, I. 342.

who may admit, V. 544.

Fssect of a surrender and admittance, id.

The admittance relates back to the furrender, 545.

a furrender and presentment severs a joint tenancy, 546.

1549.

Surrends

ALIENATION BY CUSTOM—continued.

Alienation of copyholds by furrender and admittance.

Surrender by way of mortgage, .

the furrenderor continues legal tenant till the mortgagee is admitted, V. 552.

although the furrender be not presented, it is a lien in equity, id.

the mortgagee will not be allowed to tack a judgement debt to his mortgage, 553.

A surrender does not destroy a contingent remainder, 554. Construction of surrenders, 555.

what words create an intail, 556.

in what similar to the construction of wills, 557.

application of the rule in Shelley's case, 559.

whether a surrender may be made to springing and shifting uses, 565.

a furrender sometimes supplied in equity, 566.

How the intails of copyholds may be barred,

by forfeiture and regrant, 568.

by a recovery in the manor court, 571. See Recovery.

how fuch recovery may be reversed, 573.

by furrender, 577.

a custom of barring intails of copyholds by surrender is good, 579.

by a grant of the freehold from the lord, 580.

by furrender to the use of one's last will, VI. 40. the intail of the trust of a copyhold barred by will

the intail of the trust of a copyhold barred by will, VI. 42.

how the intails of conditional fees may be barred, V. 585. effect of a release to a tenant de facto, id. the release must have been admitted, id.

joint-tenants may release to each other without a surrender, 588.

ALIENS,

who are confidered fuch, III. 375.

cannot be freeholders, I. 11. IV. 22,

cannot be tenants by the curtefy, I. 113,

are not entitled to dower, 145.

cannot be seised to uses, 422.

an alien friend merchant may have the benefit of a statute or recognizance, II. 65.

may be joint tenants, but are liable to forfeiture upon office found, 508.

cannot present to livings, III. 31, cannot inherit lands, id.

B 4

a title

ALIENS—continued.

a title may be derived through an alien, III. 377. may purchase but cannot hold lands, IV. 22. cannot levy fines, V. 89. may suffer recoveries, 393. an alien is a good tenant to the præcipe until office found, id. may be devices, but Q. for whole benefit, VI. 17.

AMBIGUITAS LATENS, may be explained in a deed by averment, IV. 425. and also in a will, VI. 165.

AMENDMENT, of fines, V. 118, See Fine. of recoveries, 411, See Recovery.

ANCIENT DEMESNE, COURTS OF, fines may be levied in them, V. 63.

ANCIENT DEMESNE LANDS, nature of their tenure, I. 296. may be extended by elegit, II. 70.

fines of them cannot be levied in the court of commen pleas, V. 63.

if a fine be levied in the court of common pleas of ancient demesne lands, it must be reversed by writ of deceit, 229.

a recovery suffered of ancient demesne lands is reversible by writ of deceit, 573.

ANNUITIES,

charged on the persons of the grantors eannot be intailed,

charged on duties for imports and exports cannot be intailed,

charged on the post office revenues cannot be intailed. 36.

an annuity charged on personal estates is not subject to dower, III. 340.

a recovery cannot be suffered of an annuity charged on personal estate, V. 382.

APPARENT HEIR, distinguished from an heir presumptive, III. 383.

APPOINTEF. who may be one, IV. 241.

APPOINTMENT,

power of, See Power.

under a power, See Power.

to a charitable use will bar an intail, I. 57.

a trust results in desault of appointment, 477.

of new trustees by the court of chancery, 557:

APPORTIONMENT,

of conditions, II. 54, See Conditions. of common, III. 102, See Common. of rents, See Rents.

APPROVEMENT OF COMMON under statutes 29 Hen. III. c. 4. and Westm. 2, c. 46, III. 106.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT,

nature of, IV. 12.

are sometimes good against judgement creditors, II. 72. in what cases articles of agreement will sever a joint tenancy, 523.

how construed, IV. 428.

cross remainders may be implied in articles, 464. lands contracted for by articles are devisable, VI. 33.

ARUNDEL an earldom by tenure, III. 185.

ASSETS,

defined, IV. 53.

by descent, the heir is liable to their amount; I. 22. What are considered assets,

trust estates, I. 502.

terms attendant, 515.

an equity of redemption is affets in equity, II. 139, and fometimes at law, 140.

what reversions are affets, See Reversion, copyholds are not affets, I. 328.

advowsons, III. 13, 40.

tithes in the hands of laymen, yo.

a rent in some cases, 337.

what are affets for payment of bond debts, IV. 168.

Assigner,

who are affignees within the statute 32 Hen. 8, II. 535 IV. 72, 76.

of a bankrupt, See Bankrupt.

of a bond, must sue in the name of the first obligee,

of:

of a lease, is subject to the covenants, II. 114. IV. 69. is entitled to the benefit of covenants, IV. 76.

ASSIGNEE—continued.

of a mortgage, is only entitled to what is due, II. 122. will be allowed interest upon interest on the money paid, 192.

of lessor and lessee, what privity between them, IV. 73. of an office, distinguished from a deputy, III. 155:

ASSIGNMENT,

described and distinguished from a lease, IV. 160. is good without technical words, 161.

must be by deed, id. what may be affigned, 162.

2 mortgage, II. 122.

a contingent remainder, in equity, 452.

an office, in some cases, III. 150.

a bond in equity, IV. 170.

a chose in action, in equity, 162, 172, but not at law, II. 6,

an executory interest, VI. 522.

Of dower, See Dower.

Of a lease,

does not exonerate the assignor from covenants, IV. 70. registering the assignment is not registering the lease, 348.

of a mortgage,

the mortgagor is usually a party, II- 122. registering the assignment is not notice, IV. 352.

of a term attendant, See Trusts.

of a term for years is good without confideration, 161.

ASSIZE,

judges of may take the acknowledgements of fines without any writ of dedimus potestatem, V. 70. rents of assize, III. 309.

ASSURANCES, different kinds of, IV. 9.

ATTACHMENT lies against the lord of a manor, for refusing to produce the court rolls, I. 301.

ATTAINDER,

for treason,

creates a forfeiture of an estate tail, I. 52.

of a husband is a bar of dower, 172.

of a cestuique trust creates a forseiture, 500.

a power becomes forfeited to the crown on an attainder for treason, IV. 399; in what cases the crown may execute a power to forfeited, id.

for felony,

does not create a forfeiture of an estate tail, I. 52,

ATTAINDER—continued.

of a husband is not a bar of dower, I. 172.

for treason or felony,

a wife does not forfeit her jointure by the attain ler of her husband, I. 210, nor her free bench, 335.

of a copyholder, createsa forfeiture, 361.

of a trustee, creates a forseiture of the legal estate,

creates a forfeiture of a dignity, III. 238,

of a coheir, does not terminate an abeyance of a dignity, 260.

causes corruption of blood, 378, except in the case of an intail, I. 52, III. 240, 473.

of a warrantor, destroys his warranty, IV. 63.

ATTAINTED PERSONS,

cannot be freeholders, I. 173. are barred of dower, id. are incapable of inheriting, III. 378. cannot convey by deed, IV. 22.

ATTENDANT TERMS, I. 506. See Trusts.

ATTESTATION,

of a deed, IV. 31.

of a will, VI. 52, See Devise.

of a declaration to revoke a devise, 89, See Devise,

ATTORNEY,

notice to him is notice to the party, IV. 353, 357, 358. voucher by attorney, V. 339.

a copyholder may furrender in court by attorney, 536.

ATTORNMENT,

a grant operates without attornment, IV. 111.

ATTRACTION,

an earldom does not attract a barony, III. 236.

AUTHORITY, may be devised, VI. 22.

AVERIUM, meaning of the word, I. 357.

AVERMENT, See Parol Evidence.

an averment that a provision made for a wife previous to marriage was meant in bar of dower, not admitted, I. 204.

when admissible in the construction of deeds, IV. 425. when admissible in reversing fines or recoveries, See Tine and Recovery.

an averment of the uses of a devise is inadmissible, VI.9. when admissible in the construction of devises, 164.

AVOIDAN CE,

AVOI DANCE,

el deeds, See Deed, IV. 367.

of fines, See Fine.

AVON I RIVER,

a woman may be endowed of a share in it, I. 147.

AVOW /RIES, reftrained by the flatute of limitations, III. 549

B

BANK RUPT,

m ay present to a living, III. 28,

A stigned of, must be admitted to a copyhold, I. 343. not protected from dower by a term attendant, 533. et lates tail are subject to the bankrupt laws, 50.

BANI (RUPTCY,

a f copyholders, See Copyhold.

a condition that a lease shall determine by bankruptcy is good, II. 13.

BAR(JAIN AND SALE, IV. 173.

u hat words are necessary, id.

w ho may convey by bargain and fale, 174.

w hat may be conveyed by bargain and fale, 176,

w hat confideration necessary, 178.

m ust be by indenture, 179.

m ust be inrolled, id.

a bargain and sale for years need not be involled, 182. where the lands are within certain cities or boroughs, invollment is unnecessary, id.

the inrollment must be within fix months, 180.

the invollment has a relation to the date or delivery, 182, is rolled, will in London bar a woman of dower, L 179, V. 154.

i loes not devest any estate, IV. 184, 194.

no use can be declared except to the bargainee, 194.

Q. whether a power of revocation and appointment may be given in a bargain and sale, 231.

Q. whether a power of leasing may be given in a bargain and sale, 322.

does not extinguish a power in gross, IV. 335.

nor a collateral power, 337.

operates without transmutation of possession. I.

operates without transmutation of possession, I. 441. conveys the legal estate to the bargainee, 461.

BARGAIN AND SALE—continued.

by a particular tenant will not destroy contingent rou mainders, II. 362.

a rent may be reserved on a bargain and sale, III. 31, 4. not inrolled held to revoke a devise, VI. 108.

to make a tenant to the præcipe, V. 352.

a husband seised jure unoris may make a good tenant to the præcipe by bargain and sale, 307.

BARONIES,

origin and nature of, III. 173, 176.

of the title of baron, 176.

tenure per baroniam, 177.

distinction between barons by writ and tenure, and ba rous by writ only, 193.

a barony is not attracted by an earldom, 236.

a caput baroniæ is subject to curtesy, I. 116.

what was called the caput baronize, III. 179.

the caput baronize was not subject to dower, I. 153.

nor divisible amongst co-heirs, 247.

what barons had a right to fit in parliament, 177.

the number of knights fees necessary to compose a baron y was uncertain, 180.

BASE FEE, I. 46.

liable to dower, 149.

BASTARDS,

cannot inherit, III. 374.

may be devisees, unless in ventre matris, VI. 17.

affection for a bastard is not a sufficient consideration to raise a use in a covenant to stand seised, IV. 190.

BEASTS,

of forest, III. 292.

of chase, 293.

of warren, 295.

BERGAVENNY, a barony by tenuro, III. 188.

BERKELEY, a barony by tenure,

186.

BILL IN EQUITY,

where it will have the effect of avoiding a fine, V. 133.

BISHOPS, See Ecclesiastics and Corporations.

how restrained from waste, I. 78.

their certificates determine the legality of marriage, 137.

may

RISITOPS—continued.

may make grants of copyholds to bind their successions, I. 315.

may maintain actions for waste committed during a vacancy, II. 424.

but not for waste done in the time of their predecessors,

hare not within the statute of Marlbridge, ch. 39. III. 137. who held per baroniam were obliged to attend parliament, 181.

may be barred by fines during their own lives, V. 188, 210.

offices incident to bishopricks, III. 135.

BLACKSTONE, Sir William, observations on his law of descents, III. 424.

BI,OOD,

where a sufficient consideration to raise a use, I. 477. corruption and restitution, See these articles. privity in blood, V. 133.

BODIES CORPORATE, See Corporations.

JBOND, IV. 165.

is good without technical words, 166.
in what cases the condition is void, 167.
effects of a bond as to the obligor and his heirs, 168.
fraudulent devises void against bond creditors, 169.
where the remedy may exceed the penalty, id.
a bond may be assigned in equity, 170.
the assignee must sue in the name of the obligee, 160.
distinguished from a recognizance, 170, 171.
a bond from a tenant in tail not to commit waste is void,
II. 10.

Q. whether a bond from a tenant in tail not to suffer a recovery is valid, 10.

where a bond is valid when a condition would have been void, 9.

where a bond for resigning a living is valid, III. 42.
where a bond for surrendering an office is valid, 162.
where a bond for securing the profits of an office to the appointor is valid, 163.

BOND DEBTS, See Debts.

BOROUGH, ENGLISH,

lands held in Borough English are subject to customary dower, I. 133.

descent in Borough English, III 476.

BOTES,

BOTES, I. 63, See Estovers.

BROTHERS, the descent between them is immediate, III. 381.

BUILDINGS, belong to tenants in fee simple, I. 19.

· C.

CANCELLING,

when it will avoid a deed, IV. 370.

when a revocation of a devise, VI. 92.

when cancelling a subsequent will is a republication of a former one, 141.

CAPTION OF A FINE,

no averment admitted as to the time of caption, V. 34. orders of court relative to captions, 75.

CAPUT BARONIÆ, See Baronies.

CATTLE,

young of, bred in a parish, are there titheable, III. 64: levant and couchant, See Common.

CELLAR will not pass by a lease of a yard, IV 43.

CESTUIQUE TRUST, See Trust.

CESTUIQUE USE, See Use.

CESTUIQUE VIE, See Estate for Life.

CHANCERY, Court of,

will appoint new trustees, I. 558.

when a bill in chancery will avoid a fine, V. 233, 256.

a will may be proved in chancery, VI. 76.

will direct the ecclesiastical court to deliver up an original will where it must be produced in evidence, 11.

CHARITABLE USES,

an appointment to charitable uses bars an intail, I. 57, what conveyances to charitable uses are valid, IV. 23. what devises to charitable uses are valid, VI. 18, 149.

CHARTERS, See Statutes.

detinue of charters is a bar of dower, I. 178. a lord by escheat is entitled to charters, III. 499. description of a deed or charter, IV. 10.

CHASE, See Franchises,

CHATTELS

CHATTELS REAL,

an estate for years is a chattel real, L 251.

if held in joint-tenancy are liable to survivorship, II. 504. a chattel interest may be created, but cannot be conveyed by bargain and sale, IV. 178.

lands devised to executors for and until payment of debts,

are chattel interests, VI. 436, I. 61.

a right to the next presentation to a benefice in a chattel real, III. 22.

are devisable, VI. 20.

in the case of chattels real, a general devise will pais at the estate of the devisor, 266.

a remainder over after a devise for life of a chattel is good by way of executory devise, 266.

CHEESE, titheable, III. 65.

CHESTER, Court of the City and County of, fines may be levied there, V. 60, 69. how such fines must be reversed, 222. recoveries may be suffered there, 379.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COMMON PLEAS, may take the acknowledgement of fines, V. 77.

CHILDREN,

the word children is a good description in a devile, VI. 187.

effects of the word children in creating an effect tail in a device, 280.

the rule in Shelley's case does not apply to this word in a devise, 344.

posthumous, See Posthumous Children and Infants in ventre matris.

CHIROGRAPHUM, V. 11.

CHIROGRAPH OF A FINE, V. 36, See Fine.

CHOSE IN ACTION, ENTRY, OR RE-ENTRY;
not assignable at law, II. 6.
the assignment of a chose in action, will be protected at equity, IV. 162, 172.

CITIES CORPORATE, COURTS OF, fines may be levied in them, V. 65.

CLAIM,

of continual claim, I. 14, 49. force of the word claim in a release, IV. 144. claim requisite to avoid a fine, V. 232.

CLANDESTINE-

CLANDESTINE MARRIAGES not void, I. 137.

CLOVER, when titheable, III. 59.

CODICIL, VI. 8.1

must be separately attested, 54.

when a codicil giving legacies is not within the statute of frauds, 71.

is sometimes a revocation of a will, 88.

forsetimes a republication, 130.

may explain a dubious expression in a will, 159.

COGNIZEE and COGNIZOR.

of a statute or recognizance, See Estate by Stat. II. 636 of a fine, See Fine, V. 24.

COLLATERAL CONSANGUINITY, III. 373.

COLLATERAL DESCENTS, See Descents, III. 393, 406, V. 141.

COLLATERAL POWERS, See Powers.

COLLATERAL SATISFACTION,

does not bar a right to an estate of freehold, I. 196.

COLLATERAL WARRANTY, IV. 54, See Warranty,

COLLATIVE ADVOWSONS, See Advowsons.

COMMISSIONERS OF BANKRUPTCY,

how they should act with respect to copyholds to avoid paying double fines, I. 343.

COMMISSIONERS under a writ of dedimus potestatem, V. 66,

COMMON, III. 92.

common of pasture, id.

may be apportioned, 102.

a recovery cannot be suffered of it, V. 382.

Common appendant, III. 93.

Common appurtenant, id.

when a right of common may be granted over, 96.

Common because of vicinage, id.

to what cattle restrained, 97.

one commoner may inclose against another, id.

Common in gross, id.

Stinted common, 98.

Commen

COMMON—continued.

Common of estovers, III. 99.

may be appendant or appurtenant to a house, id. is not capable of apportionment, II. 546, III. 102. mode of enjoying offovers in coparcenary, II. 546.

Common of turbary, III. 101.

can be appendant to a house only, id. will pass by the words cum pertinentiis, id.

cannot be apportioned, 102.

Common of pifcary, 101. cannot be apportioned, 102.

Rights of the lord, 104.

Rights of the commoners, 105.

approvement of, id. 113.

inclosure of, 113.

usually estected by act of parliament, 114.

How a right of common may be destroyed,

by a release, 114.

by enfranchisement, 117.

enfranchisement does not destroy a right of common is equity, 118.

A right of common,

may be revived, 119.

does not descend to the half blood, 419. will pass by bargain and sale, IV. 177. and by covenant to stand seised, 187. cannot be barred by a fine, V. 213.

cannot be discontinued, 236.

copyholders not generally entitled to common, I. 326. commons could not before the statute of uses be conveyed to uses, I: 408.

common without stint is incapable of partition, II. 546. mode of enjoying common without stint in coparcenary, 546.

COMMON, ESTATES IN, See Tenancy in Common.

COMMON LAW,

dower at common law, I. 131.

conveyances deriving their effect from the common law, IV. 100.

effects of a fine at common law, V. 119, See Fine.

COMMON PLEAS, COURT OF,

rules of court as to levying fines, V. 21, 25, 37, 74, 69. fines of ancient demesne lands cannot be levied there, 63. fines of freehold estates can be levied there only, 57. fines of copyholds cannot be levied there, 88, 162. rules of court as to suffering recoveries, 278, 342. recoveries can in general be suffered there only, 379.

CONCLUSION OF A DEED, IV. 99.

CONCORD OF A FINE, V. 23, See Fine.

CONCURRENT LEASES, IV. 306.

CONDITIONS, II. 2.

are either expressed or implied, id.

implied conditions annexed to certain estates, 3.

are precedent or subsequent, id.

conditions are construed precedent or subsequent, according to the intention of the parties, 4, IV. 468.

a condition preceden: copulative must be performed before any estate can arise, II. 35.

when a contingency is a condition precedent, 288.

a condition annexed to a power of leasing given to a tenant for life is precedent, IV. 294.

a preceding executory limitation is not a condition precedent, VI. 504.

for enlarging estates, II. 4, 312, 317.

To what estates a condition may be annexed, an estate in fee simple, II. 5.

a condition,

that the tenant shall not take the profits is void, 7. that he shall not alien is void, 8.

that he shall not alien to a particular person is good, id.

that he shall not alien in mortmain is good, id. an estate tail,

a condition,

that the donce shall not marry is void, II. 8.

that he shall not alien a greater estate than he has is good, id.

that the estate shall determine as if the tenant were dead is void, II. 6, 304.

restraining the power of barring an intail is void, 9, I. 56, IV. 492, V. 453.

an estate for life or years,

conditions,

restraining the alienation of estates for life or years are good, II. 10, IV. 506.

are extended to the first lessee only, II. 11: implied condition annexed to an estate for life or years, 3.

a lease for years may be conditioned to determine by bankruptcy, 13.

when

CONDITIONS—continued.

when a sale by execution is a breach of condition in non-alienation, II. 17.

at what time a condition must be created, 5. a condition must deseat the whole estate, 6, 304. to whom a condition may be reserved, 6.

Conditions in restraint of marriage, 19.

id. 32.

effects of a devise over on breach of condition, 20, 30

are construed strictly, 27.

cannot be dispensed with when precedent, 19. may be dispensed with when subsequent, 29. when taken to be in terrorem, id.

a condition restraining the marriage of a widow is con-

ftrued favourably for a remainder man, 33are binding in grants to infants and married women, 41distinguished from conditional limitations, 51, 57, 314 apportionment of, 54.

how far a condition annexed to an estate in remainder is

construed to extend, 294.

condition on which a contingent remainder may be limited, 304.

condition of re-entry for nonpayment of rent, IiI. 330. leases may determine by condition, IV. 118. condition of re-entry implied in an exchange, 140. distinction between a condition and a deseazance, 163. not warranted by a power are void in an appointment under it, 268.

by what words created in deeds, 467.

by what words in wills, VI. 428.

a collateral condition to take place after an estate tail my be barred by a recovery, V. 468.

cannot be devised, VI. 21.

against law are void, II. 7.

repugnant to the nature of the estate are void, id. what conditions are void in a bond, IV. 167.

in what case a bond would be valid where a condition is void, II: 10.

Performance of, II. 34.

where a condition becomes impossible, it must be performed as near the intent as possible, 35.

by whom and at what time a condition must be performed, 36.

what excules performance, 41, 43.

Breach

CONDITIONS—continued.

Breach of,

who may take advantage of a breach, II. 6, 51, 308, III. 498.

entry for breach of a condition, 49, 55.

a title of entry barred by fine, V. 168.

where a compensation can be made, equity will relieve, II. 46.

where no compensation can be made, equity will direct a reconveyance, 48.

CONDITIONAL FEES, I. 25, See Estate in Fee.

CONDITIONAL LIMITATIONS, II. 314. distinguished from conditions, 51, 57, 314. barred by fines, V. 168.

CONDITIONAL PURCHASES, II. 99.

CONFIRMATION,

definition and technical words of, IV. 152. does not strengthen a void estate, 154.

a fine may operate as a confirmation, V. 201.

a confirmation with warranty creates a discontinuance of an estate tail, 233.

CONSANGUINITY, III. 373.

CONSIDERATION,

upon what consideration a deed may be founded, IV. 24. nature of the consideration in a deed, 37.

a devise imports a consideration, VI. 9.

a trusts results on a conveyance without confideration, I. 474.

what confideration will induce a court of equity to supply

a defective execution of a power, IV. 325. how far the confideration of marriage extends, 398.

what is intended by a good consideration, 378.

In what conveyances necessary,

a bargain and sale, 178.

a covenant to stand seised, 188.

what confideration required in a lease and release, 199, V. 332.

not necessary in a declaration of uses, IV. 211. nor in an assignment of a lease for years, 161.

CONSTRUCTION,

of deeds, IV. 415, See Deed.

of devises, VI. 156, See Devise.

of king's grants, IV. 567, See King's Grant.

of private acts, 526, See Private Act.

CON

CONTINGENCY, when a condition precedent, II. 288. upon which a remainder may be limited, 301. upon which an executory devise may be limited, VI. 460. CONTINGENT ESTATES, are devisable, VI. 23, 521, II. 453. are assignable and will pass by a sine, II. 452, 453, VI. 522. are descendible and transmissible to heirs and executors,

CONTINGENT REMAINDERS, See Remainder, II. 261.

CONTINGENT USES, Su Uses, I 436.

CONTINUAL CLAIM, I. 14.

CONTRACT, Privity of, IV. 73; V. 133.

CONVEYANCES,

523.

derived from the statute of uses, I. 439, IV. 172, Sæ Uses.

to charitable uses, IV. 23.

common law conveyances, 100.

which are saudulent under the statutes 13 and 27 Elizabeth, 353.

void and voidable conveyances, See Void and Voidable.

COPARCENARY, Estate in, II. 537.

fubject to dower and curtefy, I. 120, II. 541.

descendible estates only can be held in coparcenary, II. 539.

dissolvable by partition, alienation, and descent, 541.

mode of enjoying estovers or common without stint in coparcenary, 546.

how an advowson may be held in coparcenary, III. 23.

Of partition,

voluntary partitions, II. 542.

writ of partition, inquisition, and judgements, 544. a partition does not always destroy a manor, 545-6, partition in equity, 547.

of a deed of partition, IV. 143.

Properties of coparceners,

in what they resemble joint-tenants, II. 537. in what they differ from joint-tenants, 538. they always claim by descent, id. no unity of time is required, id. they have several freeholds, id. they have no right of survivorship, 539. where the entry of one enures to all, 538.

COPARCENARY, Estate in-continued.

Properties of coparceners—continued.

the possession of one is the possession of all, II. 539, III., 555, V. 217.

a perception of profits by one does not amount to an expulsion of another, II. 539.

cannot be disseised but by ouster, 539.

present to a living by turns and according to seniority, III. 23.

may make leases jointly or severally, IV. 118.

may release to each other without the word heirs, 441. . they may levy fines, V. S4.

fuch fines enure by way of grant, 200.

a fine levied of the whole estate by one coparcener is not a disseisin of the other, 217.

the entry of one coparcener is sussicient to avoid a fine,

COPYHOLDS,

origin of copyholds, I. 293.

defined by Littleton, 294. described, 295.

of free copyholds, id.

distinguished from freeholds, 10.

distinguished from customary freeholds, 296.

must be expressed to be ad voluntatem domini, 297.

are inferior in point of interest to estates for years, 298.

are excepted from the statute 12 Ch. 2. c. 24. 294.

Circumstances necessary to copyholds,

a manor, 299.

a customary court, 300.

the land must have been part of the manor, 302.

and demised and demisable for time immemorial, id. are held by fealty and other services, 323.

are not assets, 328.

are liable to freebench, 328, 133, 150, See Freebench.

are by custom only liable to curtesy, 335, 123.

may by general custom be leased for a year, 337.

what statutes extend to copyholds, 338.

Q. Whether within the statute De Donis, 34, 338.

how the intails of copyholds may be barred, 340, V. 162,

See Alienation by Custom.

what will amount to a proof that a copyhold has been intailed, I. 340.

are not within the statute of uses, 363, 429.

of heriots, 357, 360.

equity

COPYHOLDS—continued.

equity will not interpose in the case of heriots, I. 384. merge in a greater estate, 386.

trusts of, 486.

are not subject to dower, 499. pass without surrender, V. 539.

not defeated by breach of a condition imposed on the grantor, II. 56.

do not escheat, III. 499.

are within the statutes of limitations, 558.

are part of the demesnes of a manor, IV. 300.

are excepted from the register acts, 344.

Q. whether within the statutes 13 and 27 Eliz. of fraudulent conveyances, 404.

a person having the freehold may bar a copyhold by fine, V. 162.

are not within the statute 11 Hen. 7. for preventing jointresses from levying fines or suffering recoveries, 405.

nor within the statute 32 Hen. 8. for preventing husbands feised jure uxoris, from levying fines or suffering recoveries, 409.

are not liable to judgement debts, 554. cannot be extended by eligit, II. 71.

Copyhold customs,

distinguished from those relating to freeholds, I. 309.

on what grounded, id.

are general or particular, id.

particular customs construed strictly, id.

alienation contrary to custom creates a forfeiture, 361.

Copyhold grants, I, 313.

how usually made, 298.

who may grant copyholds, 314, 316.

Q. whether if a copyhold be surrendered to the use of lord, he may re-grant it as a copyhold, 304.

what destroys the custom of granting copyholds, id.

who may destroy the custom of granting copyholds, 305.

what may be granted as copyholds, 307.

the grantee must be admitted, id.

must be conformable to the customs, 318, 319.

are paramount to several other estates, 321.

are not subject to the charges of the lord, id.

not defeated by entry for breach of a condition imposed on the grantor, 322, II. 56.

Copyhold

1 N D E X.

COPYHOLDS—continued.

Copyhold jurisdictions,

in what manner and in what courts copyholders must sue and be sued, I. 310.

what jurisdiction equity has assumed, 311. See Equity.

Lord of the manor,

cannot dig for mines in , a copyhold, 326.

cannot bring a bill in equity against a copyholder to compel him to be admitted, 373.

may bring a bill of discovery to ascertain copyhold lands,

may dispense with a forfeiture, 377.

unless he be lord of the manor by wrong, 378.

is the only person who can take advantage of a forfeiture,

will not be compelled by equity to grant his copyholder a licence of alienation, 383.

Copyholders,

sometimes called tenants per le verge, 295.

may maintain actions of trespals against the lord for ouster, 297.

have an interest in the court rolls, 301.

what interest a copyholder may have, 308.

are subject to the performance of services, 323.

are entitled to estovers, 324.

have only a possessory property in timber, 325.

cannot commit waste without a particular custom, id.

a copyholder for life cannot even by custom cut down timber trees at pleasure, 326.

cannot dig for mines, id.

will not be restrained from cutting timber trees by a court of equity, id.

where a copyholder abuses a right to cut timber he incurs a forfeiture, id.

not generally entitled to common, id.

an heir at law is not obliged to accept the inheritance, 328.

cannot vote at elections, 336.

may make leases for one year, 364.

what excuses them from services, 368.

the possession of a lessee is not the possession of the copyholder, III. 481.

how they must prescribe in a que estate, 526.

cannot levy fines in the court of common pleas. V.

Bankruptcy

COPYHOLDS—continued.

Bankruptcy of copyholders,

excuses from services, I. 368.

fines due on admitting the assignees, 343.

how the commissioners should act to avoid doubling the fines, id.

Admittance,

origin of, 294.

necessity of, 313.

sines due upon admittance, 344.

Who must be admitted,

the assignees of bankrupts, 343.

the executor of a devicee for years, id.

man who marries a copyholder need not be admitted, 344.

where the bailiff has by custom the guardianship of the heir, he need not be admitted, 345.

where a testator directs certain persons to sell his copyholds, they need not be admitted, id.

where a tenant for life is admitted, a remainder manneed not, 346.

a devisee must be admitted, VI. 38.

Admittance on surrender, See Alienation by Custom

Alienation of, L 337, V. 535, See Alienation by Cultonia Descent of, See Descent, I. 326, III. 478.

Devises of, See Devise, VI. 36.

Enfranchisement, I. 387.

enfranchited copyholds must be held of the lord partmount, 388.

who may take an enfranchisement, id.

when it will destroy a right of common, III. 117.

Extinguishment, I. 385.

by surrender to the use of the lord, id,

by release to the lord, 386.

by conveyance from the lord, id.

by enfranchisement, 387.

Of fines to which copyholds are subject, I. 341.

fines upon descent, id.

in some manors to fines from tenants by the curtesy and freebench, 342.

fines for alienation, id.

fines for admittance, 344. -

fines are not due except on the alteration of the tenant, 34% in some manors sines are due on the change of the lord id.

and on the death of the last admitting lord, 352.

COPYHOLDS—continued.

Of fines to which copyholds are subject—continued.
how much may be demanded as a fine, I. 355.
how these fines are estimated, 356.
the fines must be assessed, id.
at what time fines are payable, 356, 374.
remedies for recovering fines, 356.
fines must be demanded by a note in writing, 357.
refusal to pay fines is a forseiture, 374.
quit rents deducted from the fines for admittance, 355.
equity will relieve against an excessive fine, 381.

Forfeiture of,

waste, I, 326, 366.

attainder, 361.

there can be no forfeiture before admittance, 362.

alienation contrary to custom, id.

nor a covenant that a person shall enjoy after the expiration of a lease, 364.

nor a lease made with licence, 366.

disclaimer, id.

refusing to perform services, 367.

non-appearance of the heir, unless he be beyond sea, 368, non-appearance is not an absolute forseiture, except by particular custom, 369.

non-appearance of a devisce, 373.

non-appearance of a surrenderee, unless an infant, 373. refusing to pay the customary fine, 374.

refusal in nature of disclaimer to pay rent, 375.

levying a fine, V. 205.

who are capable of forfeiting, I. 375.

how far a forfeiture extends, 376.

a forfeiture need not be presented, 377.

when and by whom a forfeiture may be dispensed with, 377, 378.

who may take advantage of a forfeiture, 379.

where a copyholder for life commits a forfeiture, the lord, not the remainder man, shall enter, V. 555.

equity will relieve against a forfeiture, I. 380, 382. is a bar of freebench, 334.

CORN, titheable, III. 57.

CORPORATE CITIES AND TOWNS, fines may be levied in their courts, V. 65.

COLPORATIONS,

may hold but cannot purchase freeholds without licence, I. 11.

cannot

CORPORATIONS,

a limitation to a corporation not existing is void, II. 302. cannot be seised to uses, I. 407, 422-3. may be cestuisque use, 429.

may be trustees, 488.

cannot be joint-tenants, II. 507. may convey by deed, IV. 14.

how they must be described in a deed, 36.

cannot be devisees, VI. 17.

Aggregate,

cannot convey by bargain and fale, IV. 175.

nor by covenant to stand seised, 187.

take an estate in see without words of limitation, 442. cannot levy fines, V. 97.

may be barred by fine and non-claim, 151, 209.

Sole,

cannot take a fee simple without the word successors, IV. 442.

cannot commit waste except for repairs, 1. 78. how restrained from waste, id.

Q. whether they can levy fines, V. 97.

Ecclefiastical,

are not within the statutes of limitation, III. 560. cannot be barred by fine and non-claim, V. 151, 209. a dean may be barred by fine for term of his life, 188,

Lay, may be barred by fine, 151.

CORPOREAL HEREDITAMENTS, See Hereditaments.

CORRUPTION OF BLOOD,

impeds the descent of property, I. 22, III. 378. except in the case of an intail, I. 23, 52, III. 240, 473produces an escheat, III. 429.

COSTS,

allowed to trustees, I. 557.

allowed to a plaintiff in an action on the case in the nature of waste, 71.

allowed to mortgagees, II. 118.

COUNTERPART OF A DEED, admitted as evidence, IV. 12.

COURT BARON, I. 4. III 177. distinguished from a customary court, I. 300. where it must be held, 301.

COURT CUSTOMARY, 300. necessary to the existence of copyholds, id.

who may hold one, and where, 301.

COURT

COURT OF CHANCERY, See Chancery and Equity. COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, See Common Pleas. COURT LEET, III. 279.

COURT OF PIE POWDERS, III. 287. incident to a grant of a fair or market, id. may be held by prescription, 528.

COURT ROLLS,

Copyholders have an interest in them, I. 307.

COVENANTS, See Deed.

COVENANT TO STAND SEISED, IV. 185.

what words necessary, 186.
who may convey, and what may be conveyed, 187.
what consideration necessary, 188.
a rent may be reserved, 192.
the estate continues till a use arises, id.
operates without transmutation of possession, I. 441.
transfers the legal estate to the covenantee, 461.
does not devest any estate, IV. 193.
no use can be declared except to the covenantee, 194.
Q. whether it may contain powers of revocation and appointment, 231.

Q. whether it may contain a power of leasing, 322. extinguishes a power relating to the land, 334. but not a power in gross, 335. nor a collateral power, 337. does not alter the estate of a tenant in tail, V. 430.

COVERTURE, See Married Women.

CREDITORS,

what conveyances are void as against them, IV. 373.

a creditor by statute may redeem a mortgage, II. 141.

devises are void as against creditors, VI. 9.

where articles of agreement will prevail against a judgement creditor, III. 72.

a judgement creditor may redeem a mortgage, II. 141.

CROSS REMAINDERS,

by what words created in a deed, IV. 459.
cannot be implied in a deed, 461.
may be implied in articles, 464.
by what words created in a devise, VI. 414.
cannot be implied in a devise between more than two perfons, 415.
this doctrine qualified, 418.

CROWN,

CROWN,

may redeem a mortgage, II. 142.

Q. whether an equity of redemption will escheat to it, id. alienation of crown lands, IV. 566.

CURTESY, I. 104.

of land held in gavelkind, 106.

Circumstances necessary to curtefy,

legal marriage, 107.

seisin of the wife, or of her husband during her life, 107, 111.

issue born alive, in the lifetime of the mother, and appable of inheriting, 111, 112.

death of the wife, 113.

is a bare estate for life, 123.

does not require entry, 124.

subject to the charges of the wife, 125.

Subject to the payment of interest, id.

forfeitable for alienation, id.

but not for adultery, id.

not barred by an outstanding term, 536.

condition annexed to it by law, II. 3.

Customary curtefy, I. 335.

construed strictly, id.

sometimes subject to a fine, 342.

Tenant by curtefy,

of the issue, 119.

who may be one, 113.

the husband of a donee in special tail may be tenant by the curtesy, 118.

entitled to the privileges his wife would have had, 123' shall be attendant on the lord for services, 124.

cannot commit waste, id.

may present to a living, III. 22.

of an estate in coparcenary, is entitled to a writ of partition, II. 14, 454.

Q. whether exempted from actions for accidental find I. 124.

cannot bar his issue by warranty, IV. 56.

what leafes he may make, 128.

What estates are liable to curtefy, I. 115.

estates in see, 21, 116.

estates tail, 37, 117, 120.

estates in coparcenary, 120, II. 541.

a caput baronize or castle, I. 116.

trust estates, 120, 494.

mode

CURTESY—continued.

what estates are liable to curtely—continued.

money to be laid out in land, I. 120.

advowsons, 121, III. 8.—the tenant may present, III.

an equity of redemption, I. 121, II. 127.

tithes, I. 121, III. 70.

commons, I. 121.

rents, 121, III. 338.

the rents and services of copyholds, I. 123.

certain offices, III. 148.

escheated lands, 496.

in the case of an executory devise, curtesy attaches on the first estate, and is not deseated by its determination, VI. 451.

What estates are not liable to curtefy, I. 122.

estates for life, 119, 122.

joint tenancies, 120, II. 516.

estates not of inheritance, I. 122.

lands assigned in dower, 123.

copyholds, unless by particular custom, 123.

dignities, III. 227.

EUSTOMS,

as they relate to copyholds and freeholds, I. 308.

how far they must be observed in granting copyholds, 318, 319, 362.

distinguished from prescription by immemorial usage, III. 525.

alienation by custom, See Alienation.

a custom of barring intails of copyholds by surrender or recovery is good, V. 578.

CUSTOMARY FREEHOLDS, I. 295.

distinguished from copyholds, id.

how recoveries of them are suffered, V. 577.

where there is no custom of surrendering them to the use of a will they must be devised according to the statute of srauds, VI. 76.

D.

DAMAGES,

in actions for dower, I. 168.

not given in writs of right, where the right itself is disputed, 169.

allowed in a writ of error on judgement in dower, 170.

allowed to a widow claiming free bench, 330.

DATE

DATE OF A DEED, IV. 33.

DEBTS,

an estate in dower not liable to debts contracted by the husband, although due to the crown, I. 157.

where a purchaser must see his money applied in discharge

of debts, 543.

an equity of redemption liable to debts, 546. personal estate first applied to discharge debts, II. 165. order in which they are paid, 199. what reversions are liable to debts, 459, See Reversions. an advowson liable to debts, III. 13, 14. land not originally subject to the payment of debts, 58. Bond debts,

when the redeemer of a mortgage must pay them,

II. 142.

what are affets for discharging them, IV. 168. preferred to simple contract debts, id. not within the statutes of limitation, III. 563.

Judgement debts,

estates for years subject to them, I. 256. bind all the estates of the debtor, 21, II. 71. when they may be tacked to mortgages, II. 143, 214 not postponed in equity to mortgages, 198. where postponed to defective mortgages, 204. bind reversions after estates tail, 49. cannot be tacked to mortgages of copyholds, V. 554

Debts by simple contract, an estate in fee simple not liable to them, I. 21.

nor an estate for years, 256.

postponed to bond debts, IV. 168. Action of debt,

lies against a copyholder for non-payment of fine, 1. 356.

lay against an heir at law, II. 59. for non payment of rent, III. 334.

lies against a lessee of an incoporeal hereditament, 313. Devise for payment of debts, See Devise.

DECLARATION IN WRITING, to revoke a devise, VI. 89, See Devise.

DECLARATIONS OF TRUST,

how construed, IV. 428.

when a declaration is equivalent to an affignment of a term,

II. 231. of terms for years, by what rules governed, IV. 506, VI. 478, 482, See Perpetuities and Executory Devile. DECLA.

DECLARATIONS OF USES, IV. 205.

must be in writing, 208. Exception, 210.

good without technical words, id.

how the land should be described, id.

good without confideration, 211.

in a bargain and sale, or covenant to stand seised, no use can be declared except to the bargainee or covenantee, 194.

Of fines and recoveries,

made prior to fines or recoveries, may be controlled by fubsequent declarations, 212.—circumstances required to invalidate them by subsequent declarations, 214.

made subsequent to fines or recoveries, 219.

modern practice in declaring the uses of fines or recoveries, 220.

who may declare the use of a fine or recovery, id.

the king, 221.

married women, id.

infants, 224, V. 247.

idiots and lunatics, IV. 226, V. 247, 94.

are considered as one conveyance with the fine or recovery, V. 171.

a fine to make a tenant to the præcipe is good without a declaration of uses, 303.

may be co-extensive with the estate, IV. 226.

uses may be declared on a lease and release, 227.

who may declare the uses of a lease and release, id.

are usually inserted in the release, id.

may contain powers, 231, 322.

operate by transmutation of possession, I, 441.

not necessary in surrenders of copyholds, if the uses be indorsed on the surrender, V. 537.

DEDIMUS POTESTATEM, Writ of, See Fine and Recovery, V. 66, 341.

DEED,

alienation of lands, IV. 3.

statute of quia emptores, 6.

fines for alienating lands held in capite, 7.

abolition of military tenures, 9.

different kinds of assurances, id.

nature of a deed or charter, 10.

of a deed poll, 11.

of an indenture, id.

of an article of agreement, 12.

DEED—continued.

who must be parties, 13.

Who may convey by deed, 14.

the king and queen, id.

corporations, id.

infants, in some cases, 15.

of marriage contracts by female infants, 16. of marriage contracts by male infants, 19.

infant trustees, id.

ideots and lunatics in some cases, 20.

married women in some cases, id.

persons attainted cannot convey by deed, 22.

who may be grantees, 22.

of conveyances to charitable uses, 23.

upon what consideration a deed may be founded, 24.

must be written on paper or parchment, 25.

must be duly stamped to be produced in evidence, 26. must be read, sealed, and in most cases signed, 27.

must be delivered, 28.

delivery of a deed as an escrow, 29.

deeds which do not need delivery, 30.

attestation, 31.

premisses and date, 33.

parties names, 34.

recital and consideration, 37.

grant, 38.

description of parcels, id.

clause respecting title deeds, 45.

exception, 46.

habendum, id.

tenendum and reddendum, 47-

condition, 48, See Conditions.

. Warranty, 49.

of express warranty, id.

in what cases a warranty is implied, 51.

lineal warranty, 52.

effect of a lineal warranty as to chates tail fince the flatute de d. nis, 56.

collateral warranty, 54.

of a tenant in dower is void, 62.

bars estates tail, remainders, and reversions, 60, 61,

as restrained by the statutes of Gloucester and de domin

of a tenant by curtefy is void against his issue, id-

of a

DEED-continued.

Warranty-continued.

of a person having no estate of inheritance is void, IV.

bars a remainder expectant on an estate tail without assets, 61.

how destroyed, 63.

Covenants, 64.

must be by deed, 65.

good without technical words, id.

implied covenants, 65.

joint and several covenants, id.

Covenants real, 68.

bind all claiming under the grantee, 69.

bind the assignor of a lease after assignment, 70.

do not bind an undertenant, id.

to whom extended by statute 32 Hen. 8. c. 34, 72, 76, II. 53.

bind all claiming under the grantor, IV. 74.

an assignee is entitled to the benefit of covenants real, 76.

bind the assignee of a lease, II. 114, IV. 69.

a mortgagee of a lease is not liable to covenants until entry, II. 114.

Covenants for the title to lands, IV. 77.

are real, and run with the land, 80.

to whom usually restrained, 81.

who are held to claim through or by default of the vendor, 84, 86.

covenant for producing title deeds, 86.

where the title is defective, id.

remedies under them, 87.

action of covenant, id.

where equity will aid the covenantee, 87.

who are bound to enter into them, 92.

are inserted in modern deeds of partition, 143.

usual exceptions in covenants to repair, I. 80.

effect of a covenant that jointure lands are of a certain yearly value, 221.

covenant for payment of mortgage money, II. 87, 179, 181.

covenant that a mortgagor shall continue in possession, 106. a covenant to settle lands will bind the real estate, 177. covenant that lands mortgaged shall be as security for money subsequently borrowed, 210.

action of covenant lies for non-payment of rent, III. 334.

DEED-continued.

Covenants—continued.

the covenants required by a power of leasing must be inserted in the leases, IV 320.

a covenant from a tenant in tail not to suffer a recovery, bin s the affets of the covenantor, V. 456.

writ of covenant, See Fine, 15.

Conclusion, IV. 99.

Different kinds of deeds, See Feoffment, gift, grant, leafe, exchange, partition, releafe, confirmation, surrender, assignment, defeazance, bond, recognizance, bargain and sale, covenant to stand seized, lease and release, declarations of uses.

Powers, See Powers.

Registering decds,

of the register acts, IV. 343.

their utility, 345.

circumstances required in memorials, 344.

an appointment must be registered, 346.

registering an assignment of a lease is not registering the lease, 348.

is not notice, id.

notice takes away the effect of registering, 353.

where notice takes away the effect of registering, it must be fully proved, 363.

Inrollment of deeds, 366.

does not make them matters of record, id.

How deeds are avoided,

disclaimer, 367.

erasure or interlineation, 368.

breaking off the feal, 369.

cancelling, 370.

where usurious, id.

where made by perfons under durefs, 406.

of the statutes 13 and 27 Eliz. 372.

What conveyances are within these statutes, 373.

conveyances made with intent to defraud creditors and purchasers, id.

Q. whether notice of a preceding conveyance is material, 375.

voluntary conveyances, id.

conveyances for a good confideration only, 378. conveyances with a power of revocation, 380. exception, id.

voluntary conveyances bind the party, 405.

Q. Whether these statutes extend to copyholds, 404.

DEED—continued.

How deeds are avoided—continued.

Who are deemed purchasers under the 27 Eliz. IV. 382. purchasers for a valuable consideration, id.

a mortgagee and a lessee at a rack rent, 384.

Proviso in favour of conveyances on good consideration, 388.

settlements in consideration of marriage, id.

how far the consideration of marriage extends, 398.

fettlement by a widow on her children, 404.

Avoided by equity,

when obtained by fraud, 406.

when made in derogation of the rights of marriage, 408. when made in consideration of procuring a marriage, id.

Construction, general rules, 415.

words sometimes rejected, 418.

omissions sometimes supplied, 419.

when a deed cannot operate in the way intended it will be allowed to operate some other way, 420.

in what cases the grantee has an election how to take, 423.

when averment is admitted, id.

where a deed is uncertain it will have no effect, id.

construction of conveyances to uses, 426.

of declarations of trust, 428.

of articles, id.

Construction, particular rules,

as to the parties, 429.

as to the recital, 430.

as to the grant, id.

as to the habendum, 431...

when repugnant to the premises, 433.

when it enlarges, abridges, or explains the premises, 437.

when not controlled by the premises, 436.

words of limitation and purchase, 437.

when the word heirs is a word of limitation, 473.

when a word of purchase, 481, 490.

the word is not a word of limitation, and will not create an estate tail, 442.

what words create an estate in fee, 439.

the word heirs is in general necessary, 440.

cases in which the word beirs is not necessary, 441,

V. 49, 51, 274.

what words create an estate tail, IV. 442.

D 3

the word beirs is necessary, id.

a limitation to Λ . and his wife, and the heirs of the body of Λ . or his wife, 446.

distinction

DEED—continued.

Construction, particular rules,

What words creates an estate tail-continued.

distinction between heirs of the body, and heirs on the body, IV. 447.

effect of a limitation to the heirs of the body of A.

usual mode of limiting estates tail, 451.

What words create an estate for life, 453.

what words create a joint tenancy, 454, II. 498.

what words create a tenancy in common, IV. 455, II.

what words create cross remainders, IV. 459. cross remainders cannot be implied in a deed, 461. cross remainders may be implied in articles, 464. what words create a condition, 467.

application of the rule in Shelley's case, 470. (See Rule in Shelley's Case.)

perpetuities, 491, See Perpetuities.

DEFEAZANCE,

distinguished from a covenant, IV. 65. described, and in what different from a condition, 163. must be in codem modo with the deed to be descated, 164.

DELIVERY OF A DEED, IV. 28.

DEMAND,

force of this word in a release, IV. 144.

DEMANDANT IN A RECOVERY, V. 272, may counterplead the voucher, V. 339.

DEMESNE ANCIENT, See Ancient Demesne.

DENIZATION,

effects of, in the case of descents, III. 377. denizens may be freeholders, I. 11.

may be tenants by curtesy in respect of issue had after denization, 114.

are entitled to dower, 146.

DEODANDS, III. 286.

DEPUTY OF AN OFFICE, distinguished from an affignee, III. 155.

DESCENDANTS, who will take under this word in a devise, VI, 188.

DESCENT,

DESCENT, III. 372. mode of computing the degrees of confanguinity, 373. who may be an heir, 374. must be legitimate, id. must be a natural born subject, 375. a title may be derived through an alien, 377. effect of denization, id. persons attainted cannot inherit, 378. effect of attainder and corruption of blood, id. corruption or blood does not impede the descent of estates tail, 381. the descent between brothers is immediate, id. inheritances descend lineally, 382. nemo est hæres viventis, 383. distinction between an heir apparent and presumptive, id. when the ancestor must die seised, id. a descent may be descated by the birth of a nearer heir, 386. exclusion of the ascending line, 387. preference of males, 389. the eldest male succeeds, id. females succeed equally, 391. Right of representation, id. takes place in customary descents, 475. and in descents of copyholds, 481. Collateral descents, 393, 406. effect of fines on collateral descents, V. 141. the heir must be descended from the first purchaser, III. 393. Descents ex parte paterna & materna, 395. What alters ex parte descents, 2 seoffment, 396. a renewal of a leafe, 397. the descent of a trust and a legal estate, the one ex parte paterna, the other ex parte materna, 399. a devise to an heir at law in some cases, 401, VI. 144. a feoffment to the use of the feoffor, or without a declaration of uses does not alter the descent, III. 401. a fine in some cases, III. 402, 468, V. 205. and also a recovery, III. 402, 468, V. 476 Exclusion of the half blood, III. 407. what seisin makes a possessio fratris, 408. To what estates the doctrine of the half blood applies, 418, 465. trust estates, I. 493, III. 399. an equity of redemption, II. 126.

DESCENT—continued.

To what estates the doctrine of the half blood applies, an advowson, III. 418.—what seisin necessary, III. 70, 418.

tithes impropriate, III. 70, 418.

rents, id.—what feifin necessary, id.

remainders and reversions, where an act of ownership has been exercised, 467.

lands held in gavelkind, 476.

copyholds, 479.

in what manner uses descended before the statute of uses, 1. 413.

trust estates descend in the same manner as legal estates, 493, III. 399.

the male stocks preferred, III. 419.

mode of tracing an heir at law, 420.

observations on Blackstone, 424.

of an equity of redemption, II. 126.

of offices, III. 142.

of dignities, 222, 244.

Of estates in remainder and reversion,

remainders and reversions descend to the heirs of the persons in whom they first vested, 461.

no exclusion of the half blood takes place, 465.

unless an act of ownership be exercised, which operates as a seisin, 467.

descent of contingent remainders, II. 453.

Of estates tail,

estates tail descend to the half blood, III. 472.

not impeded by corruption of blood, 473.

not governed by the maxims seifina facit stipitem, possession fratris, id.

in Gavelkind, 475.

excludes the half blood, 476.

cannot be altered by any limitation of the parties, 477.

in Borough English, 476.

cannot be altered by any limitation of the parties, 477.

of copyholds,

fines are due on the defcent of copyholds, I. 341. is either according to custom or to law, 326, III. 478. descent ex parte paterna & materna, III. 478. the half blood excluded, 479.

what seisin makes a possessio fratris, id. the possession of a lessee is not the possession of the copyholder, 481.

cuftomary

DESCENT—continued.

Of copyholds-continued.

customary descent construed strictly, 482.

by what evidence customary descent must be proved.
485.

distinction between descent and purchase, 490.

DESIRE, Words of,

where they will raise a trust in a devise, VI. 176,

DEVEST,

etymology of the word, III. 370.

meaning of the word, V. 210.

devesting of remainders limited by way of use, II. 350.

devesting of a rent, III. 346.

no estate which is not devested can be barred by a fine and nonclaim, V. 210.

DEVISE,

origin and nature of devises, VI. 3.

etymology of the word devise, 4.

statutes of wills, 6.

nature of a devise under these statutes, 7.

distinguished from a testament, id.

of a codicil, 8. See Codicil.

transfers the freehold, 9.

imports a confideration, id. I. 456.

need not be proved in the ecclesiastical court, VI. 10.

may be proved in chancery, 76.

a will made in execution of a power retains all its properties, IV. 256.

the original will must be produced in evidence, VI. 11.

may be registered, id.

who may devise, 12.

Who are disabled from devising, 14.

infants, unless by special custom, id.

an infant may devise the guardianship of his children, id.

idiots or lunatics, id.

the proof of idiocy or lunacy lies with the heir, 15.

married women, id.

a woman whose husband is banished or has abjured the realm, may devise, id.

a removal of disabilities does not establish a will, id.

who may be devisees, See Devisee.

What may be devised,

estates in see simple, 19.

conditional

DEVISE—continued.

What may be devised—continued. conditional and base sees, VI. 19. estates for lives, 20.

chattels real, id.

a use was devisable before the statute of uses, I. 413, id.

trust estates, id.

an equity of redemption, VI. 20, II. 126.

mortgages, VI. 21.

advowsons, id.

any number of presentations may be devised, id.

rents, id.

tithes in the hands of laymen, 22.

franchises, id.

an authority, id. contingent estates, 23, II. 4-3.

a joint tenancy cannot be devised, VI. 27.

lands contracted for are devisable, 31.

there must be express articles, 34.

terms for years acquired after the execution of a will pass by it, 35.

a reversion, 465.

28.

a rent granted pour autre vie, III. 337.

What seisin required in the testator, he must be seised at the time of making the will, VI.

he must continue seised until his death, 29. when a seisin at the time of making the will is not not a quired, 30.

Circumstances required by the statute of frauds,

Writing, 48,
the devise must be reduced to writing before the death
of the testator, id.

the will may be written at different times, and on dif-

ferent sheets of paper, 49.

Signing, 40.

if the testator's name be written by himself in any part

of the will, it is sufficient, 50.

Q. whether sealing is a sufficient signing, id. the want of figning all the sheets cannot be supplied,

a declaration of a testator before witnesses that a paper was his will held equivalent to figuing, 54.

Circumstances required by the statute of frauds, Attestation,

where a testator owns his hand-writing before the witnesses, it is sufficient, VI. 52.

an attestation by witnesses setting their marks is good

within the statute, 54.

wills and codicils must be separately attested, and the attestation of a codicil cannot operate as the attestation of a will, 54.

the witnesses should see the whole, 57.

the witnesses must attest in the presence of the testator, 60.

the attestation need not mention that the witnesses subscribed in the presence of the testator, but the fact triable by jury, 62.

the witnesses may attest at different times, 64.

is who may be witnesses, 66.

a person cannot empower himself to give lands by a will not duly attested, 69.

Publication, 68.

What devises are within the statute of frauds, devises that charge lands (except codicils in some instances), 71.

devises of trusts, 72.

devises of mortgages, equities of redemption, money to be laid out in land, and wills made abroad, 73.

devises of customary freeholds where there is not a custom of surrendering them to the use of a will, 76.

devises of terms for years, except terms attendant, are not within the statute, 73.

nor devises of capyholds, 74.

Revocation, 78.

a fubsequent will, id.

a subsequent will not always a revocation, 81.

where the contents of a subsequent will are unknown it is not a revocation, id.

although a subsequent will be void from the incapacity of the devisor, it will be a revocation, 88.

a codicil is sometimes a revocation, id. two wills of the same date are void, id.

a declaration in writing, 89.

a declaration must be attested by three witnesses, id. the witnesses need not subscribe in the presence of the testator, id.

must be signed by the testator, 91.

Cancelling

Revocation—continued.

Cancelling,

when cancelling is a revocation, VI. 92.

the will must be cancelled before the testator, or by his direction, 94.

an intention to cancel is sufficient, id.

an obliteration of part does not revoke the whole, 96. where there are duplicates, cancelling one part, revokes the other, 100.

Implied revocations,

marriage and birth of a child, 101.

marriage and birth of a posthumous child, 103.

Q. whether marriage alone is a revocation, 105.

marriage is a revocation of a woman's will, id.

where a woman survives her husband, marriage is only

a suspension, id, an alteration of the estate, 105.

an alienation to a stranger, 106.

an intended alienation, 108.

an alienation to the use of the devisor, id.

an alienation to strengthen a devise held to be a revocation, 110.

a fine, id. V. 205.

E

a common recovery, id. V. 285.

Modern doctrine of implied revocations, VI, 114. an alteration in the nature of the estate is a revocation, id.

parol evidence cannot be admitted against a revocation, 119.

a fraudulent conveyance, or an alteration in the quality of the estate, is not a revocation, 120.

a devise of an equitable estate not revoked by a subsequent acquisition of the legal estate, id.

a partition, unless it extends to other things, is not revocation, 123.

Partial revocations,

a lease of lands devised is a partial revocation, 124: a mortgage in see is only a revocation pro tanto, 125. and also a conveyance for raising money to pay debts, id.

Revocations of devises of leaseholds, id.

a furrender and renewal is a revocation, id.

the purchase of a reversion expectant on a lease for lives is a revocation pro tanto of a devise of the lease, 126.

Revocations

Revocations of devises of copyholds, VI. 127.

Republication, 129.

nature and effect of republication, id.

a re-execution is a re-publication, id.

in what cases a codicil, is a re-publication, 130.

when it is duly attelled, and is annexed or refers to a will, id.

where it is confined to lands devised by the will, it will not be a re-publication so as to pass after purchased lands, 138.

a surrender and admittance in most cases is a re-publication

of a devise of copyholds, 127.

* furrender of a copyhold to the use of a will may operate as a re-publication, so as to pass the surrendered copyhold, 139.

when a re-publication affects lands purchased between

the devise and the re-publication, 140.

cancelling a fecond will re-publishes a former uncancelled will, 141.

a re-publication after the death of a devisee in tail will not give any estate to the issue of the devisee, 155.

Devifes of copyholds,

not within the statutes of wills, VI. 36, 74.

copyholds are devisable by surrender to uses, 36.

a surrender by a seme sole becomes suspended by her coverture, 37.

the devisee has no title till admittance, 38.

the devisee must pay the accustomed fines, I. 343.

the furrender only affects the estate which the copyholder has at the time of the surrender, VI.. 38.

a surrender to the use of a will is not deseated by a subsequent surrender unless there is an admittance, 39.

a surrender to the use of a will bars an intail, 40.

an equitable interest is devisable without surrender, 41.
an equitable intail barred by a will without surrender,

12.

where equity will supply a surrender, 42, 44.

a draft of a will neither figned, published, nor attested, will pass copyholds which have been surrendered, 75. a devise of the trust of a copyhold not within the statute

of frauds, 76,

where the surrender requires an attestation the will must be attested, id.

an admittance grounded on a prior surrender does not revoke an intermediate will, 127.

a surrender

Devises of copyholds—continued.

a surrender to the use of a will may operate as a nepublication of a former will so as to pass the summer dered copyhold, VI. 139.

what words are necessary to pass copyholds. 218. application of the rule in Shelley's case, 343.

Devises of terms for years,

a term purchased after the execution of a will passes by it, VI. 35.

a term cannot be created by will not duly executed, 73.

a term attendant only passes by will duly executed, id.

a general devise passes the whole estate of the devisor, 266.

a devise to a person and the heirs of his body is a disposition of the whole term, id.

a devise over after a devise for life may be good as an

executory devise, id.

when a devile to a person for a day, &c. is a disposition of the whole term, id.

application of the rule in Shelley's case, 344. executory devise of a term, See Devise-Executory.

revocation of a devise of a term, 125.

effects of a devise in barring dower, I. 179, 182, 185, VI. 9.

a devise not a bar of jointure, I. 227.

a devise sometimes taken in satisfaction for jointure, 240.

Q. whether a devise can operate by the Statute of Uses,

no use results on a devise, 456.

distinction between a devise to a person in trust to possible over the rents and profits to another, and a devise in trust to permit another person to receive the rents and profits, 462.

devise in trust for a married woman, 465. effects of a devise over on breach of condition, II. 19. a devise of lands will destroy contingent uses, 376. but not a devise of portions out of land, 376. a devise of a reversion expectant on an estate tail is fraudulent as against creditors, 462.

a devise will not sever a joint tenancy, 525. a devise bars an escheat, III. 495. statute of fraudulent devises, V. 205.

Devises

DEVISE—continued.

Devises which are void ab initio,

a devise to an heir at law, III. 407, VI. 144. although charged with debts, VI. 145.

he must be sole heir to make the devise void, 146.

a difference between the estate given to him, and that which he would have taken by descent, makes the devise good, 147.

a devise to the heir at law and another as tenants in common, does not prevent the heir from taking by descent, 148.

a devise to daughters as joint tenants makes them in by the devise, id.

a devise to charitable uses, 149.—Exceptions, 18. where fraud has been practised on the testator, 150.

Devises which become void by matter subsequent, where the devisee dies before the devisor, id.

a re-publication after the death of a devisee in tail will not give any estate to the issue of such devisee, 155.

devises may be void for uncertainty, id.

Charged with debts,

a devise upon trust to hold lands until debts are paid, gives but a chattel, I. 61, 110, 142, 245.

where lands devised for payment of debts will be applied to discharge a mortgage, II. 169.

a devise to executors for and until payment of debts does not prevent the vesting of the freehold, V. 285.

does not make an heir at law a purchaser, VI. 145.

gives an estate in fee simple, 255.

what words make lands liable to debts, 429.

origin of the custom of devising lands to executors for payment of debts, 435.

Construction,

no particular form necessary, 156.

a perpetuity cannot be created by will, 157. construction cy pres, 161.

a proviso restraining alienation is void, 162.

of contradictory devises, 164, 408.

no averment allowed to explain a will unless there is an ambiguitas latens, 165.

what words create a devise, 174.

the technical words are "give and devile," but other words will answer, 175.

a mere recital is not a devise, id.

where words of advice or desire create a trust in equity, 176.

devises by implication, 181.

What

DEVISE-continued.

Construction—continued.

What words describe the devisees, 183, See Devisee.

Description of the things devised,

need not be minute, 188.

where a technical word not applicable to any thing the testator has is used, it will be allowed to affect the property which the testator has, 189.

a mistake in the description of a place will not invali-

date a devise, 190.

what pass by the words lands, tenements, and bereditaments, 191.

a reversion, 222.

not a mortgage where there are other things to which the words may apply, 231.

what pass by the word estate, 192.

when it is confined to personalty it will not be conftrued to extend to real property, 193.

effects of this word in giving an estate in fee, 244.
the word estate is considered as equivalent to the
word estates, unless other words are added, 249.

effect of the words testamentary estate, id.

where the word estate is used only to describe a local situation, it will not pass a see, 250—but only an estate for life, 320.

what pass by the words all my rents, 195.

by the words messuage and bouse, id.

by the words all I am worth, 196.

by the word legacy, 197.

by the words remainder and residue of all my effects, id.

by the word effects, id.

in what cases general words are not restrained, 201. where general words are restrained to freeholds, 205,

10.

when general words are confined to estates in possession, 227.

general words sufficient to pass a reversion may be re-

strained by subsequent ones, id.

when general words will pass mortgages and trust estates, 229-

what words will pass copyholds, VI. 218, See Devises of Copyholds.

What words will pass reversions, 220.

the word rest, id.

reversions after estates tail pass by the words all my lands out of settlement, 222.

where

t h b e x.

DEVISE—continued.

Construction—continued.

Description of the things devised—continued.

where it is manifest that a testator does not intend to devise a reversion by general words, it will not pass, VI. 226.

construction of the word elsewhere, 223.

by what words mortgages and estates of trustees will pass in a devise, 229.

construction of the words all my mortgages, 230.

by the words lands, tenements, and hereditaments, 231.

a mortgage will pass by general words where there are no other lands to satisfy the devise, 232.

when the estate of a trustee will pass by general words, 229.

What words create an estate in fee,

the word beies not necessary, 237.

words and expressions equivalent to the word heirs, id. a devise to a man and his assigns gives an estate for life, 237.

distinction between fanguini suo and semini suo, id. the words freely to be enjoyed held to pass a sec. 238.

a devise to a person and his heirs, and if he die without heirs, remainder over, id.—unless the remainder be to a collateral heir, which gives the devisee an estate tail, 277.

a devise to a person to give and sell, 239.

where an estate for life is given with a power of disposing of the inheritance, the devisee takes an estate for life only, 240.

a devise of all a person's right, title, and interest, id.

effect of an introductory clause, 243.

effect of the word estate, 244.

effect of the words all the rest and residue of my real and personal estate, 250.

effect of the words whatever else I have not disposed of, 251.

effect of the words remainder and reversion, 252.

a devise on condition of paying a gross sum of money, 253.

a devise charged with debts and legacies, 255.

a devise charged with an annual payment for ever, 258.

a devise charged with an annual payment for the life of another person, 259—where the charge is on the rents and profits, the devisee takes an estate for life only, 264,-315.

a devise

DEVISE—continued.

Construction—continued.

What words create an estate in fee—-continued.

a devise to trustees for purposes requiring a fee, VI.264

a devise to a person for life, with a subsequent devise his heirs in fee, gives a fee to the first devisee, 266.

What words create an estate tail, 268.

any words denoting an intention to give an estate tail, it the word heirs may be qualified by subsequent words, to as to give an estate tail, 270.

a devise to A. and his heirs, remainder to a collateral har,

270.

effect of the words is use and children, 280. an estate tail may arise by implication, 282.

a devise generally may be enlarged into an estate tall 284.

a devise for life may be enlarged into an estate tail, 285.

a devise to a person for life, with a subsequent devise to the heirs of his body, gives him an estate tail, 290.

a devise to trustees to permit A. to take the profits for his remainder to the use of the heirs of his body, with a port to jointure, gives A. a legal estate tail, 325.

What words create an estate for life.

a devise to a man and his affigns, 237.

a devise without words of limitation, 305. although charged with an annuity for the life of the devisee, 319.

or the payment of a sum of money out of the rents

and profits, 264, 315.

an express devise of an estate for life, 297. although a power of disposal be given, 301, 340. the word estate when descriptive of local situation, 320. the word bereditaments, 321.

Application of the rule in Shelley's case, 323, Sa Rule in

Shelley's Cafe.

what words create a joint tenancy, 404, 413. what words create a tenancy in common, 408, 413.

what words ereate cross remainders, 414. cross remainders cannot be implied between more than two

persons, id.—this doctrine qualified, 418. what words create a condition, 428. what words make lands liable to debts, 429.

what words give a power of fale, 435.

whether a power of fale is capable of survivorship, of transmissible to executors, id.

Executory

DEVISE-continued.

Executory devises, VI. 440.

A devise over after a devise in see simple, 441. although the first estate be not vested, 443.

no devise is deemed executory, which can be supported as a remainder, 444, 456.

cannot be barred, 444.

at what time it should vest, 445.

a devise after a general failure of issue is too remote, 449. the words dying without leaving issue, restrained to the death of the person, id.

curtefy attaches on the first estate, and is not defeated

by the determination of it, 451.

A devise of a freehold to commence in futuro, 454. devise to an infant in ventre matris, 455. sometimes supported as a remainder, 456. at what time it must vest, 459.

a devise after a general failure of issue is too remote, 462. Except,

a devise of a reversion, 465.

a devise in default of issue of the devisor, 473.

a devise over for life, on failure of issue of the first devisee, 474.

or where an estate tail is raised by implication, id.

A devise over of a term for years, after a previous disposition, 476.

a devise over of a term after a devise for life, was formerly void, id.—but is now good, 266, 477—as also a similar declaration of a trust of a term, 478—although to a person not in esse, or not ascertained, id.

although the first devisee were to take the absolute property, an ulterior devise would be good, 479.

cannot be barred by the devisee for life, id.

within what time it should vest, 480.

a devise over after a general failure of issue, is void, id. unless the failure be confined to a life or lives in being, 482.

a devise over after a general failure of issue, cannot be

supported as a remainder, 481.

the words dying without issue, sometimes restrained to the death of a person in esse, 489.

no distinction between an express estate tail, and one

given by implication, 495.

no distinction between a devise for life, and an indefinite devise, 497.

No

DEVISE—continued.

Executory ..evifes—continued.

A devise over of a term for years, after a previous disposition—continued.

an executory devise for life after a general failure of issue to a person in ese, is good, VI. 497.

executory interests in terms for years,

are devisable, 521. assignable, 522.

and transmissible to executors, 523.

Where one limitation is executory, all the subsequent ones are so likewise, 499.

a preceding executory limitation may be uncertain when a subsequent one is certain, 501.

a preceding executory limitation, is not a condition precedent, 504.

a limitation over after an executory devise of the whole interest sometimes good, 507.

when a subsequent limitation may become good, and when not, 512.

a limitation which was originally a contingent remainder, may take effect as an executory devise, 513.

distinction between executory devises per verba de presenta and per verba de futuro, 517.

the freehold and intermediate profits descend in the mean time to the heir at law, 519.

a devise of the residue will pass the intermediate prosits, 520. executory estates and interests are devisable, 23, 521. equity will prevent the persons in possession from committing waste, 524.

trusts of accumulation, id. See Accumulation.

Devisee,

Who may be devisees, VI. 16.

an infant in ventre matris, id.

a married woman—even of her husband, 17. aliens—Q. for whose benefit, id.

a bastard if born, id.

corporations and persons uncertain cannot be devisees, id.

What words sufficient to describe a devise, 183. the word heir sometimes a good description, 184. the word issue a good description, 186. who take under the word issue, id. the words some children, &c. 187. who take under the word descendants, 188.

DEVISE—continued.

Devisee—continued.

may be barred by fine and nonclaim, V. 167. may maintain an ejectment against the heir, VI. 9. has the freehold without entry, id.

is enitled to aid in equity, 10.

of a term for years may, with the consent of the executor, maintain an ejectment, 20.

of a copyhold, must be admitted, VI. 38.

DIGNITIES, III. 171.

origin of parliaments, 172.

what were the first titles, 173.

who were called pares curia, id.

Bishops and abbots holding per baroniam, were obliged to attend parliament, 181.

Names and titles of dignities, 176.

title of baron, id. See Baronies.

title of earl, 182—the possessions of an earl were called comitatus, 183.

title of viscount, 184.

title of marquis, id.

title of duke, id.

by tenure, 185.

By writ, 193.

the person summoned must sit, 194.

the proof of a fitting in parliament is by the records of parliament, 195.

descend to females, 198.

may be limited to heirs males, 206.

of writs to the eldest sons of peers, id.

a writ to the eldest son of a peer creates an hereditary dignity, 207.

a writ to the eldest son of a peer by his father's barony, gives him the same estate which his father had in that barony, 211.

By letters patent, 215.

when they commenced, 217.

manner of conferring them, 218.

the inheritance must be limited by apt words, id.

are complete without the patentee's taking his seat, 219. a dignity need not be of any place, id.

dignities by marriage, 220.

by what acts a woman, noble by marriage, forfeits her dignity, id.

Q. whether a dignity may be refused, 221.

Descent

DIGNITIES—continued.

Descent of a dignity, III. 222, 224. a dignity descends to the heir general, 239. the descent of a dignity not affected by possession, 253. a dignity by writ descends to semales, 198.

What estate may be had in a dignity, 222. a qualified fee, id. an estate for life, 226. an estate tail, 223. an estate in remainder, 226. but not an estate for years, id.

nor an estate by the curtefy, 227.

not alienable, 230.

a dignity cannot be furrendered to the king, 232. cannot be extinguished by fine, or any other conveyance, 233.

instance of a peer degraded for poverty, 234. a dignity not extinguished by a new title, 235. an earldom does not attract a barony, 236. forfeited by attainder, 238.

the attainder of any ancestor of a claimant products corruption of blood, 239.

intailed dignities are not subject to corruption of blood, 240.

nature and effects of restitution of blood, 241, 371.

Abeyance of a dignity, 245.

the king may terminate an abeyance, 249. effect of a writ of summons to a coheir, 253. an abeyance determines when there is but one heir,

the attainder of one of two coheirs does not terminate an abeyance, 260.

not within the statutes of limitation, 274.

DISABILITIES, See Idiots, Infants, and Married Women. exceptions in the statute of 4 Hen. 7. in favour of persons lying under disabilities, V. 189. case of a person dying under disabilities as to fines, 195.

DISCLAIMER,

forfeiture for, I. 23, 94, 366. acceptance of rent after disclaimer bars the lord of his writ, 23. by implication, 95. avoidance of a deed by disclaimer, IV. 367.

DISCON.

DISCONTINUANCE OF AN ESTATE TAIL,

defined, II. 327.

who may create a discontinuance, III. 542.

by alienation, I. 45.

What conveyances create a difcontinuance, III. 542.

a feoffment in some cases, IV. 110. V. 233.

but not a grant, IV. 113.

nor a bargain and fale, 184, 194.

a lease in some cases, 119.

but not a covenant to stand seised, 194.

nor a leafe and releafe, 202.

a fine in some cases, V. 120, 233.

and also a recovery, 233.

what lies in grant cannot be discontinued, 236.

DISSEISIN,

its effects in ancient times, I. 15.

an entry before a lease begins is a disseisin, 250.

if the grantee of a tenant at will enters, it is a disseifin, 271.

of a rent, III. 346, V. 214.

by feoffment, IV. 108...

there cannot be actual disseifin of an incorporeal hereditament, V. 214.

where a feoffment to make a tenant to the præcipe operates

by diffeisin, 308. arguments of Lord Manssield on the nature of disseisin, 321.

DISSEISOR.

may make a valid assignment of dower, I. 161.

cannot grant a copyhold, 316.

is a good tenant of the præcipe, V. 283.

DISSENTERS, cannot be fined for refusing offices, III.

DISTRESS FOR RENT, See Rents.

DIVORCE, its effects upon a title to dower, I. 139, 140.

DOWER, I. 127.

unknown to the Romans, 128.

unknown in England until the arrival of the Saxons, 129.

unknown to the Irish before Henry II. id.

unknown to the Welch before the statute of Rutland, id.

E 4

described

```
DOWER—continued.
     described by Glanville, I. 13c.
     at common law, 131.
     by cuitom, 132.
       by custom of Gavelkind, 132, 172.
       by custom of Borough English, 133.
     ad oflium ecclesia, 133, 172.
     ex assensu patris, id.
     de la plus belle, 134.
     is a meral right, id.
     Requilites to dower,
       legal marriage, 136.
          how the fact of marriage is tried, 137.
          effects of divorces, 139, 140.
       feisin of the husband during the coverture, 1403
          what seifin gives a right to dower, 142.
          what seisin of lands in Gavelkind gives a right
            dower, 144.
       death of the husband, 145.
     who are entitled to dower, id.
     who are not entitled to dower, id.
     Of what a woman may be endowed, 147.
       an estate in fee simple, 21, 147.
       a share in see in the navigation of the Avon, 147.
       an estate tail, where the issue is capable of inheriting is
          37, 148.
       a qualified or base see, 149.
       a reversion after an estate for years, id.
       an equity of redemption of a mortgage for years, 150,
          II. 13.
       lands sequestered, I. 150.
       estates in coparcenary and common, id. II. 541, 561,
       copyholds, I. 150, 328.
       incorporeal hereditaments, 150.
       advowsons, III. 8.
          in which case she may present, 22.
       tithes impropriate, 70.
       certain offices, 148.
       rents, 399.
       lands escheated, 496.
       an equity of redemption of a mortgage for years, Il.
          139.
    in what case a woman shall have her election, I. 150.
     Of what things a woman cannot be endowed, 151,
       estates not of inheritance, id.
       a joint tenancy, 152, II. 516,
                                                     a wrongful
```

DOWER—continued.

Of what things a woman cannot be endowed—continued, a wrongful estate, I. 152. lands affigned in dower, id. a castle or fortress, 153. mortgages, 155, 499, II. 139. a use or trust, I. 155, 406, 412, 496, 499. an equity of redemption of a mortgage in fee, 499, II. ‡39. a personal annuity, III. 340. Assignment of dower, I. 159.

necessity of an assignment, id. who may assign dower, 160. how dower is to be affigned, 161. assignment against common right, 163. affignment by metes and bounds most beneficial, 164. what may be assigned, id. when a widow is entitled to a new assignment, id. the affignment must be absolute, id. remedies against an improper assignment, 165. effect of assignment, 166. warranty implied in an assignment, 167.

writ of admeasurement, 168. actions for recovering dower, 167. what damages are allowed, 168, 170. where the parol will be allowed to demur on account of the infancy of the heir, V. 225. what is a sufficient demand of dower, I. 169. demandable of the heir, although under age, id. V. 225. may be obtained in chancery, I. 171. *the assignment of a term attendant will protect a purchaser against dower, 516, 534—but not the heir at law, 531.

implied condition annexed to dower, II. 3. What is a bar of dower, I. 164, 165. attainder of the husband, 171. attainder of the wife, 173. adultery, unless there be a reconciliation, 174. adultery, although the husband consent to it, 175. detinue of charters, 178. a fine, 179, V. 156. bargain and fale in London, I. 179. a common recovery, 179, V. 458. a jointure, I. 179. a devise not a bar of dower, 179, 182, VI. 9.

a device

DOWER—continued.

What is bar of dower-continued.

- a devise in bar of dower will give the widow her election, I. 180.
- a devise sometimes considered as a satisfaction for dower, 185.
- a bequest of the residue of personal property not a bar of dower, 193.

Dowress,

nature of her estate, I. 156.

quarantine, 160.

holds of the heir by fealty, 156.

entitled to emblements, id.

restrained from alienation, 157.

forfeits her estate by alienation, feossment, sine, warranty, or recovery, id.

restrained from waste, id.

Q. whether protected from actions for accidental fire, id. not subject to her husband's incumbrances, id.

protected from distress for debts due to the crown, 158.

of a third of a manor—has a manor, 299. may grant copyholds in reversion, 315.

by custom, sometimes liable to a fine, 342.

her warranty is void, IV. 62.

what leases she may make, 128.

cannot bar her estate by fine or recovery, V. 399, 503.

DUKE, title of, III. 184.

DURESS, ground for avoiding a deed, IV. 406.

DURHAM, Court of,

fines may be levied in it, V. 61. recoveries may be suffered in it, 380.

E.

EARL, title of, III. 173, 182.

EARLDOM, does not attract a barony, III. 236.

EASEMENTS may be held by prescription, III. 530.

ECCLE-

ECCLESIASTICS seised, jure ecclesia.

may make leases for three lives, or 21 years, IV. 120. may be barred during their own lives by fine and non-claim, V. 188, 210.

cannot levy fines, 97.
cannot suffer recoveries, 410.

ECCLESIASTICAL CORPORATIONS, See Corporations.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS,

take cognizance of the legality of marriage, I. 137. devises of land need not be proved in them, VI. 10.

EFFECTS, construction of this word in a devise, VI. 197. EJECTMENT,

cannot be maintained by a tenant for years before entry, I. 248.

will not lie for dower of a copyhold, 330.

possession under a statute must be obtained by ejectment, II. 69.

what bars an ejectment under a statute, id.

where the possession of a term enables a puisse mortgagee to maintain an ejectment, 229.

when barred by an outstanding legal estate, 233, I. 503, 506.

for non-payment of rent, III. 333.
barred by the statute of limitations, 542.
not sufficient to avoid a fine, V. 239.
a recovery may be falsified in ejectment, 512.
may be maintained by a devisee against an heir, VI. 9.
may be maintained by the devisee of a term for years with the assent of the executor, 20.

ELECTIONS,

copyholders cannot vote at them, I. 336.

a cestuique trust in possession may vote, 493.

a mortgagor in possession may vote, II. 110.

a mortgagee, seven years in possession, may vote, 124.

ELEGIT, See Estate by Statute Merchant, &c.

ELOPEMENT, See Adultery.

EMBLEMENTS,

meaning of the word, I. 87, 88.
when a tenant for life is entitled to emblements, id.
the parochial clergy entitled to emblements, 88.
a dowress entitled to emblements, 156.
but not a jointress, 209.

EMBLEMFNTS—continued.

in what case a lessee for years is entitled to emblements, I. 255.

a tenant at will entitled to emblements, 272. incident to freebench, 330.

ENDOWMENT, of tithes, III. 68.

ENFRANCHISEMENT OF COPYHOLDS, See Copyholds. ENLARGEMENT,

condition for enlargement of an estate, II. 4, 312, 317.2 a release may operate by enlargement, IV. 147, 150.

ENTRY,

844

generally necessary to create a seisin in deed, I. 12, III. 409.

an heir need not enter on a lessee for years, I. 13.
necessary to avoid the alienation of a tenant in tail, 46.
an estate by the curtesy is complete without entry, 124.
necessary to complete an estate for years at common law,
I. 247, IV. 115.

but not under the statute of uses, I. 248.

an estate for years to commence in futuro may be assigned before entry, 249.

an estate for years cannot be merged before entry, 265. the only mode of taking advantage of a breach of condition is by entry or claim, II. 49.

an estate by statute merchant, &c. must be executed by entry, 68.

a mortgagee of a lease not subject to the covenants until entry, 114.

when necessary to support contingent uses, 328, 348. an exchange at common law not good without entry, IV. 139.

a devise transfers the freehold without entry, VI.9. must be made with a legal intention, I. 13. must be made in every county, id. III. 409. the entry of a stranger is an abatement, I. 14. of a younger brother not an abatement, 15. entry and ouster is a disseisin, id.

a tenant in tail may alienate, so as to take away the entry of the issue, 45.

a lessee may maintain an action against his lessor for entry on the land demised, 64.

the entry of a lessee for years before his lease commences is a disseisin, 250—exception, 251.

a chofe

ENTRY—continued.

a chose in entry not assignable, II. 6, See Chose in Action, Entry, or Re-entry.

for breach of condition, 49, See Condition.

when an estate by elegit is determinable by entry, 77.

a right of entry will support a freehold contingent remainder, 326, 328.

the death of a joint tenant for years before entry, does not

destroy a right of survivorship, 504.

the entry of one joint tenant is the entry of all, 517. the entry of one coparcener is the entry of all, 539.

what takes away the entry of a coparcener, id.

when the entry of one tenant in common is the entry of all, 552.

clause of entry for non-payment of rent, III. 331. .

right of entry by way of use, 332.

the entry of a mother gives seisin to her child, 417.

the entry of the guardian of a copyholder gives seisin, 480.

a right of entry restrained by the statutes of limitation,

what entry necessary to preserve a right, 550.

excused, where it would be attended with danger, IV. 105.

when taken away by a fine at common law, V. 120.

a title of entry for a condition broken, barred by fine and non-claim, 168.

to avoid a fine, 233, See Fine.

writ of entry to suffer a recovery, See Recovery. entry and plea to falsify a recovery, 512.

EQUITABLE RECOVERY, 459, See Recovery of a Trust Estate.

EQUITY,

۲',

will restrain a tenant for life without impeachment for waste, from committing malicious waste, I. 80, 101.

will assist a widow in recovering dower, 171.

will not assist a person who has been divorced in recovering dower, 139.

will relieve against a partial or fraudulent assignment of dower, 166.

will protect a jointress, 218, See Jointure.

will restrain a tenant for years, without impeachment of waste, from committing immoderate waste towards the close of his term, 258.

will relieve against the merger of a term for years, 266.

jurisdiction

EQUITY—continued.

Jurisdiction of equity over copyholds, I. 311.

will not restrain a copyholder from waste, 326.

considers an agreement to convey as a bar of freebench,

334.

will relieve against a forfeiture, 311, 380—but not unless

there is a ground for equity, 382.

will relieve against an excessive fine, 311, 381.

will not interpose in the case of heriots, 384. will compel a lord of a manor to admit a codyholder,

311, V. 545. where it will supply the want or defect of a surrender in a conveyance, 566.

where it will supply a surrender to the use of a will, VI.
42—and where not, 44.

jurisdiction which it assumes over uses, I. 395. rules by which uses are governed in equity, 408.

supports trusts, 458.

when it will relieve against a forfeiture for breach of condition, II. 46—where it cannot relieve, it will decree a re-conveyance, 49.

interference of, in respect to mortgages, 83.

interference of, in respect to trustees to preserve contingent remainders, See Remainder.

joint-tenancy not favoured in equity, 505.

partition in equity of estates held in joint-tenancy, coparcenary, and common, 534, 547, 563.

will decree an advowson in gross to be sold for payment of debts, III. 13.

interposes to prevent the illegal sale of offices, 164. will assist a person in recovering a rent, 333.

where it adopts the statutes of limitation, 564.

will assist an assignee in obtaining the benefit of covenants, IV. 75.

when it will presume or supply the want of livery of seisin, 106.

protects the assignment of a chose in action, 163, 170. where it will allow a remedy to exceed the penalty of a bond, II. 78, IV. 169.

interferes in the case of declarations of uses by infants, lunaticks, or idiots, 226.

when it will supply a defective execution of a power, 324.

will not supply a non-execution of a power, 330.

how it construes the register acts with respect to mortgages, 349.

EQUITY—continued.

will fet aside a deed obtained by fraud, IV. 406.

will set aside a deed made in derogation of the rights of

marriage, 408.

will rectify a marriage settlement made in pursuance of articles; when, contrary to intent, a husband is made tenant in tail, 485.

discourages perpetuities, 491.

will relieve against a private act of parliament, 544.

interference of, with regard to fines and recoveries, See these Articles.

will compel an heir at law to produce title deeds in favour of a devisee, VI. 10.

will support a devise of lands contracted for, 31.

adopts the rule in Shelley's case, in construing devises of trusts, 336.

where it directs a conveyance under a will, it sometimes departs from the rule in Shelley's case, 343, 369.

will, in the case of executory devises, prevent the person in possession from committing waste, 524.

will support a trust of accumulation, pre tanto, 596.

EQUITY OF REDEMPTION, See Mortgage.

ERAZURE, when an avoidance of a deed, IV. 368.

ERROR,

writ of, to avoid a fine, V. 221, See Fine. when errors in a fine will be amended, 109, See Fine. writ of, to reverse a recovery, 504, See Recovery. what may be assigned for error in a recovery, 510.

ESCHEAT, III. 490.

where a writ of escheat lies, 491.

for default of heirs, 492.

from corruption of blood, id.

there can be no escheat where there is a tenant, 493.

how barred, 494.

by acceptance of rent, id.

by alienation, 495.

fometimes by a devise, id.

to whom lands will escheat, 496.

Lord by escheat, id.

subject to incumbrances, id.

was not bound to execute a use before the statutes of uses, 497, I. 406.

Q. whether subject to a trust, III. 497, I. 550, 492. may distrain for rent, III. 498.

cannot

INDEX. ESCHEAT—continued. Lord by Escheat—continued. cannot enter for breach of a condition, II. 51, III. 498. entitled to a term attendant, III. 498. entitled to all charters, 499. not within the statute 32 Hen. 8. c. 34, respecting covenants, IV. 74. What things escheat, all lands and tenements held in focage, III. 499. copyholds, id. not lands in Gavelkind, id. no real property, but what lies in tenure, id. not trust estates, 500, I. 502. a use before the statute of uses did not escheat, I. 412, HI. 500. O. as to an equity of redemption, III. 521. money to be laid out in land does not escheat, 522. Of the office of escheator, id. ESCROW, IV. 29. ESTATE, in land, I. 6. of freeholds, 7, See Freeholds. of inheritance, 17. tenant-right estates, 350. privity between lessors and lessees, IV. 73. what passes by the word estate in a devise, VI. 192, See Devise. ESTATE IN FEE SIMPLE, I. 1, 17. meaning of the word fee, 17. conditional fees, 25. when introduced, 27. how construed, 28. 585.

how a conditional fee in a copyhold may be barred, V. Qualified, or base sees, I 23, 46. privileges annexed to them, 24. subject to dower, 149. no reversion exists after a grant of a qualified fee, II. 455. a qualified fee may be had in a dignity, III. 222. and acquired in a rent by recovery, 335. the alience of a tenant in tail has a qualified fee, L 46. are devisable, VI. 20. aberance of the fee, I. 19.

ESTATE IN FEE SIMPLE—continued.

is the entire property, I. 18.

incidents to this estate, 20.

all other estates merge in it, id.

is alienable, notwithstanding any proviso, id. IV. 492:

descends to heirs general, I. 21.

subject to curtesy, 21, 116.

and dower, 21, 147.

liable to specialty debts, 21.

but not to simple contract debts, 22:

forfeitable for treason and selony, id.

and for disclaimer, 23.

what conditions may be annexed to this estate, See Conditions.

no remainder can be limited after a grant of the fee, 281. several contingent estates in fee may be limited by way of substitutes, id.

may be had in an advowson, in which case the tenant may present, III. 8, 21.

may be had in tithes impropriate, 70.

in certain offices, 142.

in a rent, 335.

how far barred by fine, V. 49, 51.

will pals by fine fur concessit, 52.

by what words it passes in a recovery, 274.

the tenant cannot by a recovery bar collateral conditions, executory estates, &c. 471.—nor alter the nature of the descent, 484.

is devifable, VI. 9.

a limitation over after a devise of a fee simple, may be good as an executory devise, V. 443.

ESTATE TAIL,

origin of, I. 25.

Statute de Donis, 29.

construction of, 30, 42.

does not affect personalty, 35.

binds the king, 49.

how far it affects copyholds, 338.

extends to advowsons, III. 8.

to what offices it extends, 148.

extends to dignities, 223.

to rents, 335.

as to warranty, IV. 56.

described, 1.31.

general and special tail, id.

gifts in frank marriage, I. 32.
estate in tail, male and semale, id.
how created, I. 33, IV. 111.
subject to dower, I, 38, 148.
and to curtesy, 38, 117, 120.
not subject to merger, 38.
the donce claims by purchase, 42.

may be discontinued, 45, IL 327, HI. 370, Sa Discontinuance.

subject to the bankrupt laws, 50.

forfeitable for treason, 51.

but not for felony longer than for the life of tenant in tail,

the forfeiture of an effate tail does not occasion any corruption of blood, 52, IH. 239, 384, 473.

Modes of barring estates tail, I. 52.
warranty as well lineal as collateral, I. 53, IV. 56.

fine I. 54, See Fines. recovery, 38, 54, II. 9, 309, IV. 492, See Recovery. appointment to a charitable use, T. 57.

private act, IV. 52.

the power of barring an intail cannot be restrained by my proviso, I. 56, II. 9, 309, IV. 492, V. 453.

Q. whether a bond from a donee in tail not to suffer a recovery, is good, II. 10.

how the intail of a copyhold may be barred, See Alienation by Custom.

how the intail of money to be laid out in lands may be barred, I. 5.7.

how the intail of a trust may be barred, 493a cestuique trust in tail may call on the trustee for a conveyance, and then suffer a recovery, 540-

how the intail of a customary freehold may be barred,

V. 57.7. the forms required by law for barring intails, cannot be dispensed with by equity, I. 44.

limited as a jointure cannot be barred, 56, 209, granted by the crown as a reward for services cannot be

barred, 56, IV. 506.
no use results on the grant of an estate tail, I: 454 conditions which may be annexed to this estate, Successions.

a bond from the donee not to commit waste, is void,

ESTATE TAIL—continued.

may be extended by elegit during the life of the tenant

bound by a decree of foreclosure, 252.

a donce in tail is not within the statute 32 Hen. 8.

c. 34, 53. descent of, III. 472-3.

by what words created in a deed, IV. 442, See Deed. by what words created in a devise, VI. 268, See Devise. The issue in tail,

not bound by the act of his ancestor, I. 42-unies he consirms it, 44.

claims per formam doni, 43,

may avoid his ancestors act by entry, 46.

not subject to incumbrances, 48.

bound to pay debts due to the king, 49.

a grant of a tent charge by a tenant in tail to a person having a prior right, in consideration of a release, held to bind the issue, 54.

Tenant in tail, interest and power of,

who may be one, 36.

holds of the donor or reversioner, id.

with remainder in fee, holds of the chie lord, id.

not bound to pay off incumbrances, 39.

bound in some cases to pay interest, id. II. 194-5.

has a right to the title deeds, I. 40.

may commit waite, 37.

can alien for his own life only, 41.

tannot bind his issue, the remainder men, or reversioners

by any contract, 41, 42.

dilienation by, is not void but only voidable, and sometimes creates a discontinuance, 45, See Discontinuance. the alience of a tenant in tail has a base see, 46.

cannot create an estate to commence after his death, 47

may make leases, 50, IV. 1191

cannot destroy the custom of granting copyholds, I. 305; what use results to him on suffering a recovery, 451.

What may be intailed, I. 94.

tenements of all forts, id.

Q. as to copyholds, 34, 339. money directed to be laid out in land, 34.

trusts, 34, 493. uses, 424.

an equity of redemption, II. 126.

edvowfons;

3 2

```
ESTATE TAIL—continued.
     What may be intailed—continued.
       advowsons, III. 8—in which case the ten int may pre-
         ient, 21.
       certain offices, 147.
       tithes impropriate, 70.
       dignities, 223.
       rents, 235.
       estates for life cannot be intailed, I. 90.
       nor estates for years, 259.
ESTATE FOR LIFE, I. 59.
     how created, 60.
     may determine before the death of the tenant, 61.
     not comprehended in the statute Quia Emptores, 62.
     held by fealty, id.
     merges in the inheritance, 80.
    merges an estate pur auter vie, id.
     cannot be intailed, 90.
    fubject to the payment of interest, id. II. 194.
    but not of principal, I. 90.
     What amounts to a forfeiture, 93.
       a conveyance of a greater estate, except by certain mo-
         dern conveyances, 93, 94.
       a fine, 94.
       a recovery, id. V. 474.
       disclaimer on record, 1. 94.
       implied disclaimer, 95.
    not subject to curtesy, 122.
    nor to dower, 151.
     no use results on the grant of an estate for life, 454.
     conditions which may be annexed to an estate for life or
       years, See Conditions.
    implied condition annexed to this estate, II. 3.
     May be had,
       in a ule, 1. 427.
       in a trust, 494.
       in an advowson, III. 8—in which case the tenant may
         present, 21.
       in tithes impropriate, 70.
       in certain offices, 142.
       in a dignity, 226.
       in a rent, 336.
       in joint-tenancy, II. 512.
    may be limited to an unborn person, IV. 504.
    may be surrendered by fine, sur cognizance de droit tanzam,
       V. 51.
                                                            will
```

ESTATE FOR LIFE—continued.

will pass by fine sur concessit, V. 52.

by what words created in a deed, IV. 453.

by what words created in a devise, See Devise.

Tenant for life, interest and power of,

has the usufruct property, I. 59.

holds of the grantor by fealty, 62.

to what estovers entitled, 62, 63.

cannot commit waste, 63, See Waste.

has an interest in the trees, unless they are excepted in the lease, 64.

may maintain an action of trespass against his lessor for

felling timber, 64.

may work mines that are open, 67.

may fell timber to repair buildings, 68.

in what cases bound to repair, 68, 69.

an action of waste lies against him, 69.

entitled to the benefit of timber for shelter or ornament, 76.

will be restrained from cutting timber, although he has the first existing estate of inheritance, subject to intermediate contingent remainders, 77.

exempted from actions for accidental fire, except where

he covenants generally to keep in repair, 80.

without impeachment of waste, id.

may commit waste, id.

trees blown down belong to him, id.

will be restrained from malicious waste, id.

cannot cut saplings or timber serving for shelter or ornaments, 84.

obliged to keep tenants houses in repair, 85.

powers of the tenant where there is an exception of voluntary waste, id.

with partial powers of waste, 86.

when entitled to implements, 87.

advantage of his under-tenants respecting emblements, 88.

may pray in aid, 89.

the Court of Chancery will neither take from nor give him title deeds, 89.

who pays of debts becomes a creditor, 90.

has a right to all the annual profits, 93.

may grant the whole or a part of his interest, id. un-

less particularly restrained, II. 10. IV, 506.

cannot grant a greater interest than he has, unless the person entitled to the inneritance is a party, I. 93. the heir cannot enter upon him, 14.

ESTATE FOR LIFE.—continued.

Tenant for life, interest and power of—entimed.
cannot destroy the custom of granting copyholds, I. 305.
may grant copyholds in reversion, 315.
who redeems a mortgage must pay a third, II. 188.
how he must prescribe in a queestate, III. 527.
his warranty is void, IV. 61.
may make leases for his own life, or a less term, 127.
a recovery suffered by him is void, V. 398.

ESTATE POUR AUTER VIE.

merges in an estate for life, I. 89.

may be devised, VI. 20.

if the tenant continues in possession after the death of the eestus que vie he is tenant at susserance, I. 283.

ESTATE TAIL AFTER POSSIBILITY.

how this estate arises, I. 97.

there must be a moral impossibility of either of the donces having ssue, 98.

whe impossibility must proceed from the act of God, id.
may be of an estate in remainder, 99.
in what smiles to an estate sail id.

in what similar to an estate tail, id.

in what fimilar to an estate for life, 101.

the privileges of this estate are annexed to the person of the tenant, and cannot be transferred, 102.

merges in an estate in see simple, 101.
may be exchanged for an estate for life, id.
condition annexed to it by law, II. 3.

Tenant in tail after possibility. who may be, I. 98.

i dispunishable for waste, go.

may be restrained from malicious waste, 101,

ESTATÈ FOR YEARS, I. 243.

origin of, 244. defined, 245.

except under the statute of uses, 248.

an interesse termini, id.

may be made to commence in futuro, id. may be assigned before entry, 249.

is a chattel real, 251.

vests in executors or administrators, 252. must expire at a fixed period, 253.

may determine by proviso, id. IV. 506.

a freehold-cannot be derived from it, L 254.

subject:

INDEX, ESTATE FOR YEARS—continued. subject to simple contract debts, I. 256. a bona fide Tale of an estate for years is good against all creditors, even the crown, id. subject to judgement debts, id. clause without impeachment of waste, 258. may be limited for life, 259. cannot be intailed, id. terms for years involved in the lame limitations with freeholds, 260. when subject to merger, 263, 265. merger of a term for years in a term for years, 266. the merger of terms faved by the statute of uses, 266 V. 303. equity relieves against merger, L 266. there is no merger where the tenant is made tenant to the precipe, V. 303. what is a forfeiture, L 267. is a greater legal interest than a copyhold, 298. no use results on a grant of it, 454. conditions annexed to estates for life or years. See Conditions. implied condition annexed to this estate, II. 3. may be extended by elegit, 71. how affected by a judgement, 73, 141. may be had in an advowlon, III. 8. in which case the tenant may present, 21. in tithes impropriate, 70. in certain offices, 143. in a rent, 336. but not in a dignity, 126. Reversions expectant on estates for years. See Reversion. may be barred by fine and nonclaim, V. 163. will pass by fine fur concessit, 52. how a fine may be levied of an estate for years, 88. is devisable, VL 20. will pass by a will executed previous to the acquisition of an estate, 35. Tenant for years, interest and power of,

his possession is that of the heir I. 13, 109. III. 409, . 554.

where an action of waste lies against him, I. 72. cannot maintain an action of trespass or ejectment before

entry, 248.

cannot grant away his interest after having entered and been dispossessed, 249.

who

ESTATE FOR YEARS—continued.

Tenant for years, interest and power of—continued.
who enters before his interest commences is a disseisor,
I. 250, 251.

entitled to the same estovers as a tenant for life, 255. sometimes entitled to emblements, id, cannot commit waste, 256.

punishable for permissive waste, id.

is within the statutes of Marlbridge and Gloucester, id. how far exempted from actions for accidental fire, 257. without impeachment of waste, 258.

may affign his interest or create a less estate than his own, 267.

may be restrained from alienation, II. 10. IV. 506. how he should prescribe in a que estate, III. 526. his warranty is void, IV. 62.

what leafes he may make, 129.

may assign his interest without consideration, 161.
may falsify a common recovery, V. 514.

terms attendant, See Trusts.

Declarations of trust of terms, See Declarations.

ESTATE FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

how this estate arises, I. 276.
goes to the executors of the tenant, 278.
Privity between the tenant and the lessor, 279.
the tenant entitled to half a year's notice to quit, id.

ESTATE AT WILL, I. 269.

must be at the will of both parties, 271. cannot be granted over, id. how determinable, 273. may be had in certain offices, III. 144,

in what similar to the estate of a mortgagor in possess session, II. 106.

Tenant at will, interest and power of.
his grantee is a disseisor, I. 271.
entitled to emblements, 272.
cannot commit weste, id.
not punishable for permissive waste, id.
not within the statute of Gloucester, id.
entitled to six months notice to quit, 274.
how he must prescribe in a que estate, III. 526.
may take a release, IV. 148.

ESTATE AT SUFFERANCE, I. 283.

distinction between the tenant and an abator, 284. there cannot be a tenant at sufferance against the King, id.

ESTATE AT SUFFERANCE—continued.

no privity between the tenant and the owner, I. 284. the tenant entitled to fix months notice to quit, id.

a person holding must pay double value, id.

where a person holds over after giving notice to quit, he must pay double rent, 288.

the tenant cannot take a release, IV. 148.

nor grant a copyhold, I. 316.

ESTATE UPON CONDITION, See Conditions.

ESTATE BY STATUTE MERCHANT, STAPLE, AND ELEGIT, II. 58.

Statute of Acton Burnel, II. 60.

of a statute merchant, 61.

of a statute staple, 62.

of a recognizance, 63. IV. 171.

what may be extended on a statute or recognizance, II.64.

form of a recognizance, IV. 171.

inrollment of flatutes and recognizances, II. 63.

Execution, id.

who may extend, 65.

the Court of Exchequer may sell absolutely on an extent

by the Crown, 80.

must be executed by entry, 68.

possession must be obtained by ejectment, 69.

is but a chattel interest, 73.

how a judgement affects a term for years, id. 141.

the tenant has the same remedies by assize as free-holders, id.

he cannot be punished for waste, but an action of account will lie against him, id.

Remedies of the tenant in case of eviction, 74.

whether the cognizee by statute of a manor to which an advowson is appendant may present, III. 27.

cannot be barred by recovery, II, 73. V, 503.

may be barred by fine and nonclaim after actual extent, V. 166, 213.

Effect of a fine levied by the cognizor, 184.

of the writ of eligit, II. 65.

Practice to which elegits have given rise, 66.

inquisition upon the writ, id.

only half the debtors land can be extended by elegit, 67. where two judgements in elegit are obtained by one per-

fon he may extend both moieties, 68. what will bar an ejectment under an elegit, 69. what may be extended by an elegit, 70.

every species of freehold, id.

trust

ESTATE BY STATUTE MERCHANT, STAPLE, AND ELEGIT—continued.

what may be extended by an elegit—continued. trust estates for the debts of cestuique trust, II, 71, 72. I. 503.

an estate tail for the life of the tenant in tail, II. 71. a term for years, id.

Lands held in ancient demesne, id.

but not copyholils, id.

Rents seck or glebe lands cannot be extended by elegit, id.

nor advowsons in gross, id. III. 13.

duration of this estate, II. 75.

how determined, 76.

an estate by statute by a scire facias, 77.

an estate by elegit

fometimes by entry, id. when by fcire facias, 78.

ESTOPPEL.

a contingent remainder may pass by estoppel, II. 452. where a common recovery will operate by estoppel, V. 334 476.

a fine may operate by estoppel, and as such will pass excutory interests, V. 202. VI 522.

the surrender of a possibility will not operate as an estoppes, V. 536.

ESTOVERS,

a tenant for life entitled to them, I. 62.

slío a lesse for years, 255.

and copyholders, 324.

are not capable of partition, II, 546.

Common of estovers, III. 90.

a recovery cannot be suffered of estovers, V. 382.

ESTRAYS, III. 283.

of illegitimacy, III. 374.
of customary descents, 485.
cannot be admitted to contradict a record, V. 32, 226.
in a writ of error to reverse a fine, 226.
of a recovery under the stat. 14 Geo. 14. c, 20, 377.
of a fine, 31.

EXCEPTION IN A DEED, IV. 46.

EXCHANGE,

defined, IV. 139.

complete

EXCHANGE—continued,

complete without livery of feifin, IV. 14st.

implies a warranty, 140.

under the statute of uses, id. note.

can only be between two parties, 141, 527.

implies a condition of re-entry, 149,

who may exchange, 142.

by an infant, only noisable, id.

where both parties die before entry, the exchange is void,

but if one enter it is good, III. 385.

EXECUTION,

when a sale by execution is a breach of a condition for non-alienation, II. 17.

upon a statute or recognizance. See Estate by Statute, Merchant, &c.

whether an execution on an effate in joint tonency binds the survivor, 515. in a recovery, See Recovery.

EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

entitled to a term for years, L. 252.

and to a tenancy from year to year, 278.

in what cases they may grant copyholds, 315.

may take advantage of the breach of a condition, II. 51.

entitled to money due on mortgage, 106

of an executor, are liable to an action for waste done by

their testator, 434.

when entitled to a rent, III. 326.

what leases they may make, IV. 120.

entitled to the next presentation to a living as a chattef

Executors who have lands in traft to pay dobes may be barred by fine and nonclaim, V. 167.

BEECHTORY DEVISE, See Devise.

EXECUTORY INTERESTS,

devisable, VI. 23, 521.

affignable, and will pass by fine, 522.

descendible and transmissible to heirs and executors, 523.

EXPECTANCY, Estates in, IL 258.

EXTENT,

uses not extendible before the slatute of uses, I. 413.

upon a statute or recognizance, see Estate by Statute

Merchant, &c.

extinguishment,

EXTINGUISHMENT,

of copyholds, I. 385, See Copyholds.

of a particular estate destroys contingent remainders, IL 363.

of common, III. 114.

of a right of way, 129.

of a rent, 349.

a release may operate by extinguishment, IV. 150.

of powers, 333.

EXTRA-PAROCHIAL LANDS, pay tithe to the King, III. 69.

F.

'FAIRS AND MARKETS, right of holding them, III. 286. FARM.

origin of the word, III. 307. what passes by this word in a deed, IV. 40. what in a devise, VI. 212.

FEALTY.

incident

to tenure in socage, I. 11.

to an estate for life, 62.

to an estate in dower, 156.

to copyhold tenures, 323.

to a reversion, II. 458.

FEE, See Estate in Fce.

FEE-FARM RENTS, III. 310.

FELONY, See Attainder.

to acknowledge a fine in the name of another is felon, V. 41.

FEMALES,

formerly succeeded to dignities according to primogenture, III. 245.

fucceed equally to the estates of their ancestor, 391, marriage contracts by semale infants, IV. 16.

FEME COVERT, See Married Women.

FEME SOLE, the Queen one by prerogative, IV. 14.

FEOFFRE TO USES, See Uses.

FEOFFMENT,

INDEX:

FEOFFMENT,

nature and origin of, IV. 101.
can only be made of corporeal hereditaments, id.
of livery of seisin, 102, See Livery of Seisin.
who may convey by feoffment, 106.

effect of a feoffment with livery of seisin by an idiot or lunatic, id.

cannot be made to commence in futuro, 107. unless in the case of a remainder, 108. transfers the freehold by disseisin, id.

by a tenant in tail,

creates a discontinuance, 100 V. 233. destroys contingent remainders, II. 360.

by a tenant for life,

destroys his powers, IV. 335.

of his life estate, destroys contingent remainders,

by a particular tenant creates a forfeiture, IV. 110. distinguished from gift or grant, 111. does not bar collateral powers, 337. when it alters the descent, III. 396, 401. by an infant with livery of seisin prevents an escheat, 495. to make a tenant to the præcipe, V. 307—when it operates as a disseisin, 308. without livery of seisin, held to be a revocation of a de-

vise, VI. 108.

FEODUM,

meaning of the word, I. 17.

Feodum novum, held as a feodum antiquum, III. 395.

Feodum talliatum, I. 26.

FIDEI COMMISSUM,

origin and nature of, I. 393. gave rise to uses, id.

. FINES,

to which copyholders are subject, See Copyholds. for alienation of property, IV. 7. due to the King on suing out original writs, V. 15.

FINE,

origin of fines, V. 3.

description of a fine, 5.

Transfers land without livery of seisin, 6.

taken from the civil law, 7.

when

when first adopted, V. 8. ancient manner of levying fines, 10. modern manner of levying sines, 13.

Of the original writ,

its neoessity, 13.
fines levied without it are not void, but only the able, 14.

usually a writ of coverant, 15.
fines due to the king on suing it out, islidoes not abate by the death of the King, islithere thust be one for each county; as.
how the parcels should be described, 102.
whether it may be amended, 109.

Of the licentia concordanti 17.

Of the King's filver, id:

how entered, 18.

the death of any of the parties before it is extered generally makes the fine void, id.

Rule of court, and flat. g2 Gest. II. c. 14. respecting the payment of it, 21.

a mistake in the entry will be amended; 111.

as to the time of entry, 18, 226.

Of the toncord,

rule of court respecting it, 25.
every concord contains an express warranty, it.
is similar to a judgement, 26.
of what things, and between whom it should be made,
26, 28.

may extend to lands in different counties, 28: is the complete fine, 29.

Of the note, 30.

Of the foot or chirograph, 30.

meaning of the word chirographum, 11.
is evidence to all persons, and in all courts, 31.
there can be no averagent against it, 33.
the proceedings must be all recorded, 31.
no averagent admitted as to the time of caption, 34 motions to prevent fines from being completed, 35.

when said to be ingressed, 36.
of the proclamations,

statutes requiring them, 38.

are inderled on the foot of the fine, and confidence and matters of record, 14.

Of the proclamations—continued.

are void if made on days when the court does not sit, V. 39. an error in the proclamations does not destroy the fine, 40.

how given in evidence, id.

may be amended even after a writ of error for a defect in them has been sued out, 112.

fines levied by tenants in tail bar the issue without proclamations, 145.

fines levied without proclamations may be avoided without entry, 240.

to acknowledge a fine in the name of another is fe-

at what time complete, id.

when it begins to operate, 42.

Executed and executory fines, 45.

a fine executed cannot have a rent reserved on it, 49. fur cognizance de droit come ceo que il a de son done, 48.

nature and form of, id.

is executed and passes a see simple without the word beirs, unless there be particular limitations, 49.

if levied by a tenant for life is a forfeiture, 203.

fur cognizance de droit tantum, 50.

nature and form of, id.

when called a fine upon furrender, id.

is executed and passes a fee without the word heirs, 51.

fur concessit, 52.

nature and form of, id.

will pass any estate, and is executory, id.

levied by a tenant for life is not a forfeiture, 204.

fur done grant et render, 52.

form and use of, id.

is part executed and part executory, 54.

how construed, id.

how and of what lands the render must be made, 53. gives a new estate, and alters the descent, 205.

is the only fine which alters the descent, 206.

the cognizor cannot assign error in the grant and render, 224.

In what courts fines may be levied,

the court of common pleas, 57.

fines of copyholds cannot be levied in the court of common pleas, 88, 160.

Rules of the court of common pleas relative to fines, 21, 25, 37, 74, 79.

fines

In what courts fines may be levied—continued.

Ines of lands held in ancient demesne cannot be levied in the court of common pleas, V. 63.

the court of the county palatine of Lancaster, 58.

the court of the county and city of Chester, 60.

how such sines may be reversed, 222.

the court of the county palatine of Durham, 61.

the court of the great sessions of Wales, 62.

how fuch fines may be reversed, 222.

the court of the isle of Ely, 63.

courts of ancient demelne, id.

courts of cities and corporate towns, 65. before whom fines may be acknowledged, id.

commissioners under a writ of dedimus potestatem, 66. origin and nature of this writ, id.

how the acknowledgment is to be certified, 71.

a fine will not be reversed by a trifling error in this writ, 72.

the writ should bear date on or before the date of the writ of covenant, 73.

Rules of court respecting this writ, 69, 74.

the judges of affize, 70.

the chief justice of common pleas, 77.

the justices of Wales, 78.

Who may levy fines,

the king, 80, 136.

the queen, 80.

married women,

may join with their husbands in levying fines, IV. 231. V. 80, 154.

ought to be privately examined, V. 81.

an averment that a married woman has not been privately examined will not be admitted, id.

effect of a fine levied by a married woman alone, 82 no faving in their favour in the statute de modo levandi fines, 125.

origin of their power of joining their husbands in fines, 154.

might formerly have appointed their husbands at-

tornies to levy fines for them, 153.

where they levy fines with their husbands of their own estates, the whole interest passes from them, 154; the warranty in such fines should be from the husband and wife, and the heirs of the wife, 155.

FINE—continued.

Who may levy fines—continued.

coparceners, joint tenants, and tenants in common, V. 84.

persons outlawed, 85.

Who are disabled from levying fines,

persons having no estate of freehold in the lands, id.

a tenant for years or a copyholder, 88.

cases in which a fine may operate although the parties have no estate of freehold, id.—no person claiming through the cognizor can aver quod partes sinis nihil habiterunt, 89.

aliens, id.

infants should not be allowed to levy fines, 90.

if an infant be permitted to levy a fine which is not reversed during his minority, it must stand good, id.

how the fact of infancy is tried, id.

if an infant levy a fine, and the infancy be recorded, the fine may be avoided at any time after, 92.

infant trustees may levy fines, 93.

idiots or lunatics should not be permitted to levy fines; but fines levied by them cannot afterwards be reversed, and no averment can be admitted of the idiocy or lunacy, 94.

a corporation aggregate, but not a sole corporation, 97. women seised of jointures, and husbands seised jure

uxoris, id.

every estate created by the fine of a jointress is void as against the heir, 400.

ecclesiastics seised jure ecclesiæ, 97.

What persons may take lands by fine, id.

Of what things a fine may be levied, 99.

Every species of real property, id.

an office, although no præcipe can be brought for it, id,'
Estates in possession, remainder and reversion, 100.

tithes impropriate, 100, III. 71.

not of a dignity, III. 233. V. 220.

a share in the new river, V. 101.

what descriptions should be used, 102.

Equity will restrain the operation of a fine to lands belonging to the parties, 108.

In what cases a fine may be amended, 109.

Q. Whether an amendment is allowed in the original writ, id.

a mistake in the entry of the king's silver may be amended, 111.

the proclamations may be amended, 112.

the description of parcels sometimes amended, 113.

a fine

In what cases a fine may be amended—continued.

a fine recorded of one term will not be altered to and ther, V. 116.

no change of christian name allowed, 117. no amendment after exemplification, 118.

Fines at common law, 119.

Force of a fine at common law, id. transfer the possession and right of possession, 120.

Effect of, on estates tail, id.

do not take away a right of entry, unless levied by a tenant in tail in possession, id.

Statute 18 Edw. I. st. 4. de modo levandi fines, 123effect of a fine under this statute, id.

has no faving in favour of mraried women, 125. directs a claim within a year and a day, 123, 126.

Statute 27 Edw. I de finibus lovatis, 125.

Statute of monclaim, 34 Edw. III. c. 16, 126. inconveniences which it was meant to remedy, 127. is in force with respect to fines levied without prochmatons, 128.

Stat. 1 Rich. III. c. 7, 129.

Stat. 4 Hen. VII. c. 24, 130.

Stat. 32 Hen. VIII. c. 36, 132.

operation of a fine under these statutes in barring estates tail, I. 54. V. 133.

who are privies under the flat. 4 Hen. VII. 133;

a fine bars an intail of lands descending per formen doni,135.

the king, tenant in tail, may bar the intail by fine, 136 a fine sur concessit will bar an intail as long as it continues in force, 137.

although a fine be defeated by a person having a particular estate, it will be good against the issue in tail, it

a tenant in tail, although not in possession or in no mainder, may bar his issue by sine, 137, 140.

where a tenant in tail makes a feofiment, and after wards levies a fine, the issue is barred, 139;

a fine levied by a person who has only a possibility of an estate tail, and on whom the estate never descended, is no bar to a collateral heir, 141.

an intail of a rent charge may be barred by fine, 143. and an intail of an advowson, 144.

an intail of a trust estate may be barred by fine in the same manner as if the tenant had the kgal estate, I. 493. V. 145.

a fine bars the issue in tail besore proclamations, V. 145.

INDĖX. FINE - continued. operation of, under these statutes, &c.—continued. fines in inferior courts do not bar the iffue in tail, V. 147. the right to levy a fine under these statutes cannot be tostrained, id. does not bar remainders or reversions, 148. a fine by a tenant in tail having the reversion in fee in himself lets in the reversion, id. does not bar an estate tail given by the crown as a reward for services, 148, 218. how an estate tail is affected by a fine with warranty, 149. Exceptions in the stat. 32 Hen. VIII. c. 36, 148, Effects of fines in barring particular estates and interests, 150. The parties are immediately barred, and have no time allowed them except in case of infancy, id. Lay corporations may be barred by fine, but not ecclesialtical corporations, 151. A married woman, as to her right of dower, I. 179. V. 156. as to her jointure, I. 226 V. 157. as to any other interest she may have, V. 159. in whatever court, and whether with or without proclamations, id. Trust estates, where the fine is levied by a stranger, 159. or by a cestuique trust, 161. Coypholds. a person having the freehold may bar a copyhold by fine, 162. where there is a custom of intailing them, a fine levied in the manor court will not bar such intail unless allowed by custom to have that effect, id. terms for years, 163. may be barred by fine and nonclaim if the lesses were or ever might have been in possession, id. vested in trustees on any trust (except to attend the inheritance), may be barred by fine and nonclaim) 164.

Estates by statute merchant, staple, and elegit, 166, 213. Executors to whom lands are given for payment of debts, 167.

a title of entry for breach of a condition, 168.

a power appendant or in gross, may be barred by fine, 1V. 334. V. 169, may be destroyed in part by leving a fine of part of the lands, V. 170.

ά 'n

Line

FINE—continued.

Effects of fines in barring particular estates and interestscontinued.

a fine may operate as an execution of a power appendant or in gross, V. 170

a collateral power not destroyed by fine, IV. 337. V. 372

a fine and nonclaim bars a writ of error, V. 173.

a fine by a mortgagor in possession does not bar a morgagce, II. 110.

a fine by a mortgagee in possession does not bar a mostgagor, 122.

a fine levied by a cestui que trust for life is not a for feiture, I. 494. V. 255.

a fine levied by a particular tenant will mostly definy contingent remainders, II. 361.

where a fine will alter the descent, III. 402, 464. 'V. 205, 206.

First saving in the stat. 4 Hen. VII. c. 24. £ 13. V. 174 Second faving in the stat. 4 Hen. VII. c. 24.1.4.175 extends to those only to whom a first right account, 177.

where a hulband levies a fine of his wife's estate, the is allowed five years after coverture to claim, 178.

where a husband levies a fine of his own estate, but wife is allowed five years from the time her right " dower accrues, to put in her claim, 179.

what allowances are made to infants parties to fines, 151. Exception in the stat. 4 Hen. VII. in favour of infants 189 Infants in ventre matris are within these excep tions, 191.

of persons having different rights, 182. case of persons dying under disabilities, 195.

may operate as a release, 200. and as a confirmation, 201.

will let in a reversion, and make it liable to prior in cumbrances, 201.

may operate by estoppel, 201. VI. 522; and as such will bar continued. bar contingent remainders, IL 452. V. 202, and extensions desired cutory devises, VI. 522.

sometimes creates a forfeiture, V. 203.

may operate as a revocation of a devile, 205. What persons, estates, and interests, not barred by fines, the king, unless a party, 208—ecclesiastical corporations, by 151, 200—yet a bishop, dean, or vicar may be barred by his own nonclaim, 188, 210. chates not develted, 210. a fature

FINE—continued.

What persons, estates, and interests, not barred by fines —continued.

2 future interest, V. 212.

estates by statute merchant, staple, and elegit, unless the lands are actually extended, 213.

a rent, right of way, and common, id. necessity of an adverse possession, 217.

a fine levied by one joint tenant of the whole is only a severance of the jointure, and not an ouster of the other joint tenant, id.

Estates tail of the gift of the crown, 218.

springing and shifting uses, 219.

Dignities, 220. III. 233.

how fines are reversed, V. 221.

writ of error, id.

nature of this writ, id.

in what courts and at what times it must be brought,

by whom it may be brought, 223.

against whom it may be brought, 225.

Error may be assigned either in law or in sact, 226. what evidence admitted in a writ of error to reverse

a fine, id.

how a person may bar himself from bringing it, 227. an intant may bar himself of his writ of error by levying a second fine, id.

barred by fine and nonclaim, 173.

and by a common recovery, 472, 228.

can only be brought to reverse a judgment in a court of record, 229.

reversal of a fine different from the reversal of a judgement, 228.

writ of false judgement, 229.

is returnable in the court of common pleas, id.

can only be brought when the fine was levied in an inferior court, id.

of this writ by the death of any of the parties, 230 writ of deceit, 231.

effect of a reversal by writ of deceit, id.

fometimes by motion, id.

How the effects of a fine are avoided, id. by action, 232.

must

PINE -- continued.

How the effects of a fine are avoided—continued; must be a real action, 232. at what time it must be brought and pursued, id.

by entry,

when entry is effectual, V. 233.

the entry must be made with an intention of claim, ing the freehold against the fine, 237.

where entry is prevented by force there must be claim, 237.

the entry must be actual, and not fictitious, 25 in ejectments, id.

by whom entry must be made, 240.

a fine levied without proclamations may be avoided without entry, id.

a guardian in focage may enter in the name of his ward,

by plea,

who may plead quod partes finis nibil babuerunt, 242.
no person claiming through the cognizor, 89.
neither parties nor privies, 137.

by averment of fraud or usury, 243.

by a court of equity, 244.

where there has been fraud, 246.

where an infant, idiot, or lunatic, levies a fine,

where a person with notice of an incumbrance of trust levies a fine, 248.

where a mortgagor or mortgagee levies 3 fine,

where equity directs a fine to be levied it will restrant its operation, id.

Equity will not allow the plea of a fine and long pole fession under it, in bar of a bill for discovering the deeds declaring the uses of such fine, 251.

where a bill in equity will have the effect of avoiding a fine, 233; 256.

when it operates as a discontinuance of an estate tails

effect of a fine levied by a tenant for life in develing remainders and reversions, 236.

Deeds to declare the uses of fines, IV. 219.

Deeds to lead the uses of fines, 212.

a fine and declaration of uses considered as one some yeyance, V. 171.

f N D E X.

FINE -continued.

to make a tenant to the præcipe, See Recovery, V. 302. levied by a vouchee to a demandant in a recovery is good, 347.

-operation of a fine different from that of a recovery,

effect of a fine in letting in incumbrances different from that of a recovery, 487. revokes a devise, VI. 110.

does not bar an executory devise, 144.

FIRE ACCIDENTAL, See Accidental Fire.

FISH CAUGHT AT SEA—the gains by them are titheable, III. 66.

FISHERY, See Franchises,

FLAX titheable, III. 63.

FOOT OF A FINE, See Fine.

FORECLOSURE, See Mortgage, II. 251.

FOREST,

Forest lands in the hands of the crown not tithcable, III. 66. Franchise of a forest, 290. beasts of forest, 292.

FORFEITURE,

for treason and selony, See Attainder.

for the acts by which different estates become forseited, See those Titles.

FORMEDON—writs of, restrained by the statutes of limitation, III. 541.

FOSSILS belong to the owner of the foil, I. 3.

FRANCHISES,

Nature of, MI. 278. A court leet, 279. waifs, id. 289.

wrecks, 281.
estrays, 283.—Persons under disabilities are equally bound if they do not claim them with n a year and a day, 284. beasts belonging to the king not liable to forseiture, as estrays, id.

what use may be made of an estray, id.

Treasure

G 4

FRANCHISES—continued.

Treasure trove, III. 284—how the concealment of treasure trove is punished, 285.

Royal fish, id.

Goods of felons, id.

Deodands, 286.

of holding fairs or markets, id.

a court of pie powders, 287.

of taking tolls, 288.

a forest,

origin of this franchise, 290.

meaning of the words vert and venison, 291.

what animals are beafts of forest, 292.

a free chase, id.

what animals are beasts of chase, 293.

origin of free chases, id.

distinguished from a forest, id.

a park,

what constitutes a park, 294.

subject to the jurisdiction of the common law, 295

a free warren,

what are beasts and fowls of warren, id. must be held by grant or prescription, id. may be had in a person's own lands, 296.

2 free fishery, 297.

ought to be as old as the time of Henry IL id.

distinguished from a several fishery, id.

a recovery cannot be suffered of it, V. 382.

by what title holden, III. 298.

what franchises may be held by prescription, id. 528.

a franchise cannot be divided, 300.

how destroyed,

by reunion with the crown, 301.

by furrender and by forfeiture, 302.

do not descend to the half blood, 419.

pass by bargain and sale, IV. 177.

by covenant to stand seised, 187.

by lease and release, 198.

by king's grant, 564.

may be devised, VI. 22.

FRANKALMOIGN, tenure in, not affected by stat. 12. Charles II. c. 24. I. 297.

FRANK-MARRIAGE, oftates in, I. 33.

FRANK-PLEDGE,

1 N D E X.

FRANK-PLEDGE, view of, III. 279.
may be demanded in a writ of partition between joint tenants, II. 531.

FRAUD.

Statute of frauds, See Statutes.

a trust results where there is fraud, I. 485.

Priority of incumbrances may be lost by fraud, II. 199.

also an equity of redemption, 163, 215.

and a right of foreclosure, 162.

Equity will avoid a deed obtained by fraud, IV. 406.

a fine may be avoided by averment of fraud, V. 243.

practised on a testator, renders a devise void, VI. 150.

FRAUDULENT DEVISES, See Devise.

FRAUDULENT CONVEYANCES.

what conveyances are fraudulent within the statutes 13 Eliz. c. 5. and 27 Eliz. c. 4. IV. 372. a fraudulent conveyance not a revocation of a devise, VE 121.

FREE BENCH, I. 328.

of what it usually consists, 329. the trust of a copyhold not subject to free bench, id. 485. in what cases a widow may enter, 330. Privileges annexed to free bench, id. can only be recovered by plaint, id. forfeited by incontinency or second marriage, id. barred by jointure, 331. the husband must die seised, id. barred in equity by an agreement to convey, 334. barred by forseiture of the copyhold, id. barred by a grant of the freehold to the husband, 335. not barred by attainder of the husband, id. sometimes subject to a fine, 342.

FREE TENURE, I. 8.

FREE CHASE, FISHERY, AND WARREN, See Franchises.

FREEHOLD, ESTATE OF, I. 7.
requisites to, id.
opposed to copyhold, 10.
may be sometimes moveable, 9.
must be held by free tenure, 10.
may be had in certain offices, 10.

who

FREEHOLD, ESTATE OF-continued.

who may be freeholders, I. 10.

bodies corporate, 11.

denizens, id.

but not aliens, id.

persons naturalized, id.

tenure by which freeholds are holden, id. feisin can only be of a freehold, id.

cannot be made to commence in futuro, 17.

Exceptions, II. 324, VL 454.

a right to a freehold not barred by a collateral satisfaction,

1. 196.

may be extended by elegit, II. 70.

cannot be derived from an estate for years, I. 254.

transferred by devise without entry, VI. 9.

v. 279, 287.

Estates less than freehold, I. 243.

Freeholds customary, See Customary Freeholds.

FRUIT titheable, III. 64.

FRUIT TREES titheable, 60.

G,

GARDEN HERBS titheable, III. 64,

GAVELKIND LANDS,

subject to customary curtesy, I. 106. H. 541. and customary dower, I. 132, 144, II. 541. in what manner they descend, III. 475. do not escheat, 499.

GIFT,

distinguished from a feofsment, IV. 111. not good without livery of seisin, id. properly applied to estates tail, id.

GLEBE LANDS cannot be extended by elegit, II. 71:

GLOUCESTER

INDEK.

GLOUCESTER, statute of, 6 Edw. I. See Statutes.

GOLD MINES belong to the king, I. 19.

GRAIN titheable, III. 58.

GRAND SERJEANTY, IH. 133,

GRANT.

distinguished from a feosfment, IV. 111.
good without attornment or livery, id.
good without technical words, 112.
who may convey by grant, id.
operation of, id.

does not create a discontinuance or forfeiture, 113. is the proper mode of conveying incorporeal hereditaments.

III.
release allowed to operate as a grant, in order to effe

a release allowed to operate as a grant, in order to effect, tuate the intention of the parties, 421.

the word grant in a conveyance of the inheritance does not imply a warranty, 52.

what lies in grant cannot be discontinued, V. 236.

who may be a grantee, IV. 22.

when a deed may enure different ways, the grantee has his election how to take, 423.

GREEN CROPS cut for beafts of husbandry not titheable, III. 59.

GUARDIAN IN SOCAGE,

a widow continuing in possession considered such, I. 14, III. 400.

his possession is the possession of his ward, I. 14, III 411. may grant copyholds in reversion, I. 315. may make leases, IV. 129.

may enter in the name of his ward to avoid a fine, V. 241,

H,

HABENDUM OF A DEED, IV. 46.—how construed, 431, HALF-BLOOD,

excluded from succession, I'l 407, 418, 475, 479.
except in the case of an estate tail, 472.
or of a remainder or reversion, 465.

HANAPER

HANAPER OFFICE, fines due there on original writs, V.

HAY, titheable, III. 58.

HAYBOTE, I. 63.

HEMP, titheable, III. 63.

HEIR—for the effects and construction of this word, fee Deed, Devise, and Rule, in Shelley's Case.

Heir at Law,

need not enter on a lessee for years, I. 13-

cannot enter on a lessee for life, 14.

with fee simple assets by descent, bound to pay debts of record, or under the seal, 21.

forfeits a copyhold by not appearing to be admitted, 368.

may take advantage of a condition broken, IL 51.

formerly an action of debt lay against him, 59.

an heir at law or by custom may redeem a mortgage,

who buys in a prior incumbrance, to what entitled on that incumbrance, 213.

when entitled to a rent, III. 326.

who may be an heir, 374, See Descent.

heir apparent and presumptive, 383.

how far the heir of an obligor is affected by his ancestors bond, IV. 169.

execution may be sued against the heir of a recoveree, V. 372.

a devise to an heir at law does not take away his title by descent, VI. 144.

eannot be disinherited by a will, unless there are express words or a necessary implication, 159.

in the case of an executory devise, the freehold and intermediate profits descend to him, 519—unless devised away, 520.

HEIR LOOMS, I. 6—destroying them is waste, 68.

HERBAGE may be granted by copy, 307.

HEREDITAMENTS, I. 2.

Corporeal,

may be conveyed to uses, I. 428. cannot be prescribed for by immemorial usage, III. 526. may be held by negative prescription, 539.

Incorporeal,

HEREDITAMENTS—continued.

Incorporeal,

principal kinds, III. 2.

some are subject to curtesy, I. 121.

subject to dower, 150.

can alone be prescribed by for immemorial usage, III. 526.

lie in grant, IV. 111.

may be conveyed by bargain and sale, 177.

by covenant to stand seised, 187.

and by lease and release, 198.

there cannot be an actual diffeisin of an incorporeal hereditament, V. 214.

what passes in a deed by the word bereditament, IV. 41. what in a devise, VI. 321.

HERIOTS,

nature of, and when due, I. 357, 360.

heriot custom, 360.

equity will not interpose in the case of heriots, 384.

HOPS, titheable, III. 55, 63.

HOT-HOUSE PLANTS, not titheable, III. 64.

HOUSEBOTE, I. 63.

HOUSES,

not titheable by common right, III. 66. titheable in London by act of parliament, id. belong to the tenant in fee simple, 1. 19. pulling them down is waste, 66. what passes in a devise by the word bouse, VI. 195.

HUSBAND,

of a donce in special tail, entitled to be tenant by the curtesy, I. 118.

cannot defeat his wife's jointure, 226.

may by alienation bar his wife's right to freebench, 331. purchase by a husband in the name of his wife, 484.

may, with the consent of his wife, declare the uses of a fine or recovery of her estate, IV. 221.

husband and wife,—cannot be joint-tenants, II. 508.

cannot take by moieties, V. 438.

may furrender the wife's copyhold, 537.

seised jure uxoris.

cannot destroy a custom of granting copyholds, I. 305. may make leases, IV. 120.

cannot

HUSBAND—continued.

husband seised jure uxoris—continued.

cannot levy a fine, V. 97, 408.

may make a good tenant to the pracipe withou this

wise's joining, 305.

cannot suffer a recovery, 408.

HUSTINGS, Court of, in London—Recoveries may be suffered in it, V. 380.

L

IDIOTS AND LUNATICES,

may make grants of copyholds, I. 314. cannot take grants of copyholds, 317. cannot for cit copyholds, 375... a lunatic cannot present to a living, III. 37. What cor veyances they may make, IV. 20. a feofiment with livery of feifin, 107. cannot make leafes, 130. may declare the uses of a fine or recovery, 226, but not of a leafe and releafe, 227. should not be allowed to levy fines, V. 94. fines levied by them cannot be reversed, id. fines levied by them relieved against in equity, 245. should not be allowed to suffer recoveries, 397. when recoveries suffered by them may be reversed, id. cannot make wills, VI. 14. the onus probandi of the idiocy or lunacy of a testator lies on the heir, 15.

JEWESSES not entitled to dower, I. 146.

ILLEGITIMACY, what evidence admitted to prove it, III.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN, See Bastards.

IMMEMORIAL USAGE, Prescription by, III. 525.

IMPLICATION,

uses by, I. 446. trusts by, 471. implied conditions, II. 2. implied warranty, IV. 49.

implies

IMPLICATION—continued.

implied covenants, 66.

devises by, VI. 18,—the implication must be a necessary, not a possible one, id.

an estate tail may be devised by implication, 282. cross remainders implied in a devise, 415.

INCLOSURE OF COMMONS, III. 113.

INCONTINENCY,

a-forfeiture of freebench, I. 330. formerly a forfeiture of dower, 130.

INCORPOREAL HEREDITAMENTS, See Hereditaments.

INCORPOREAL PROPERTY, I. 2, III. 2.

INDEMNITY OF TRUSTEES, Clause for, I. 551.

INDENTURE, IV. 11.

INDUCTION, See Advowsons, III. 18.

INFANCY,

excuses the non-appearance of the surrenderee of a copyhold, 1. 357.

exeuses neglect in redeeming a mortgage, II. 153.

in'a writ of error to reverse a fine or recovery, the parol allowed to demur on account of infancy, V. 225, 508.

INFANTS,

bound by a jointure settled before marriage, I. 210.

may be copyholders, 317.

may be admitted to copyholds through their guardians,

cannot forseit copyholds, 376.

may be seised to uses, 407, 422.

may be bound by a condition, II. 41.

where, in the case of a mortgage, interest upon interest

will be allowed against an infant, 193. bound by a decree of foreclosure, 254.

may present to livings, III. 28.

marriage contracts by male infants; IV. 19.

marriage contracts by female infants, 16.

an infant joint-tenant cannot sever a jointure, II. 523.

excepted from the statutes of limitation, III. 563.

when they may convey by deed, IV. 15.

infant trustees may convey, 19.

not barred by a warranty, 50.

may conver by feofiment with livery, 197.

a fooffment

INFANTS—continued.

a feoffment with livery by an infant bars an escheat, III.

cannot make leases unless beneficial to themselves, IV. 13e. exchanges by infants are only voidable, 142.

may declare the uses of fines or recoveries, 224.

cannot declare the uses of a lease and release, 227.

may execute powers of appointment or revocation,

ought not to be permitted to levy fines, V. 9—fuch fines if levied can only be reversed during their minority, id.

an infant trustee may levy a fine, 93.

may convey under the direction of the courts of counties palatine, and of the great sessions in Wales, 94.

what allowances are made in favour of infants parties to

fines, 151.

of fines, 189—an infant in ventre matris is within these exceptions, 191.

equity relieves where an infant levies a fine, 247.

a person entering upon the estate of an infant considered

in equity a trustee for him, 249.

ought not to be permitted to suffer recoveries, 393—such recoveries, if suffered, can in general be only avoided during their minority, id.

formerly suffered recoveries by privy seal, 395.

an infant trustee may join in a recovery under the direction of the court of chancery, 397.

where an infant suffers a recovery, he must make a tenant to the præcipe by seossment, and give livery in person, 396.

may be devisees, VI. 16.

cannot devise lands unless by special custom, 14an infant may devise the guardianship of his children, id. Infant in ventre matris,

a copyhold may be surrendered to his use, V. 539.

a devise to one is good as an executory devise, VI. 455, 518, 16.

for what purposes considered in being by the law, 546. is a proper object of a power of appointing portions to younger children, IV. 232 VI. 557.

is a life in being for the purpose of tying up property

from alienation, VI. 561.

an injunction to stay waste granted in favour of an infant in ventre matris, II. 414.

INGROSSING,

INDEX,

INGROSSING OF A FINE, V. 30.

INHERITANCE,

estate of, I. 17.

timber belongs to the person entitled to the inheritance,

offices of inheritance, III. 142. descent of inheritances, See Descent.

INJUNCTION to stay Waste, See Waste.

INNS OF COURT AND CHANCERY,

leases of chambers in them are excepted from the register acts, IV. 344.

INQUISITION,

on a writ of elegit, II. 66. on a writ of partition, 530.

INROLLMENT, IV. 366.

whether a recognizance must be involled, 171. of a bargain and sale, See Bargain and Sale. of the proceedings in recoveries, V. 376.

INSTITUTION OF A CLERK, III. 18.

INTERESSE TERMINI, I. 248.

INTEREST OF MONEY,

a tenant in tail sometimes obliged to pay it, I. 39.

a tenant for life bound to pay interest, 90.

also a tenant by the curtesy, 125.

where allowed to a jointress, 224.

whether allowed in *elegit* beyond the penalty of a judgement, II. 78.

interest beyond the penalty of a judgement allowed to a mortgagee who has tacked a judgement to his mortgage, 214.

when in the case of a mortgage interest upon interest is allowed, 191.

in Ireland and the plantations, IV. 371.

INTERLINEATION, when it renders a deed void, IV. 368.

INTRUDER,

may make a valid assignment of dower, I. 161. cannot grant a copyhold, 316.

JOINT

INDEX JOINT-COVENANTS, IV. 66. JOINT-LIMITATIONS, IV. 475. JOINT-TENANCY, II. 497. how it arises, 498. may be had in a remainder or retersion, 499. requires, a unity of interest, id. a unity of title, 499, 500. a unity of time, id. and a unity of possession, 499, 503. what may be held in joint-tenancy, 500. a unity of time sometimes dispensed with, 501. goes to the survivor, 504. chattels real held in joint-tenancy are liable to survivorship, id. not favoured in equity, 505. how far subject to incumbrances, 515. not subject to curtesy, 516, I. 120. nor to dower, II. 516, I. 152. when liable to merger, II. 520, 512. By what means a joint-tenancy may be severed, 519. destroying the unity of interest, id.—or the unity of title, 521. articles of agreement, when? 523. a lease for years by one tenant, 524. a mortgage by one tenant, 525. a release from one joint-tenant to another, 526. disuniting the possession, 528. a writ of partition at law or in equity, 529, 534. of the writ of partition, inquisition, and judgements, 529a writ of partition does not abate by the death of the defendant, 530. partition in equity, 534. effect of an agreement for partition, 535.

a deed of partition, IV. 143.

2 fine, V. 84.

a joint-tenancy in a copyhold severed by surrender and presentment, 546.

distinguished from coparcenary, II. 538. cannot be by prescription, III. 627. by what words created in a deed, IV. 454, II. 498. the estate of a joint-tenant cannot be devised, VI. 23. by what words created in a devise, VI. 404.

Joint

JOINT-TENANCY—continued.

Joint-tenants, interest and power of,

are seised per mie & per tout, II. 503.

the seisin and possession of one is the seisin and possession of the other, 504, 517, III. 555, V. 227.

who may be joint-tenants, II. 50%.

all natural persons, id.

husband and wife cannot be joint-ténants, 508.

husband and wife who were joint-tenants before mat riage will continue so after, 511.

the king or a corporation cannot be joint-tenants

joint-tenants for life, may be tenants in common of the inheritance, 512, VI. 413.

cannot charge their estates, II. 515.

when an execution binds the survivor, id.

may make leases for years to bind the survivor, 516.

in what acts they must join, 517.

livery of seisin to one enures to all, id.

the furrender of a leafe to one will enure to all, i.i.

are all liable for waste committed by one, id.

one cannot be diffeised by his companion unless by actual ouster, id.

must jointly implead and be impleaded, 518.

may have an action of waste or of account against each other, id.

may compel each other to make partition, 330.

how far bound by an agreement to make partition,

in the case of an advowson they must all join in presenting, III. 23.

perception of profits by one does not amount to an expulsion of others, II: 552.

may make leases jointly or severally, IV. 118.

may release to each other in fee without the word heirs,

may levy fines, V. 841

may release to each other by fine, 2001

a fine levied by one joint tenant of the whole estate is not a disseisin or ouster of the other, but only a serverance of the jointure, 217.

in the case of copyholds, they may release to each other

without a surrender, 588.

JOINTURE,

JOINTURE,

Origin of, I 196.

defined, 198.

Requisites to make a jointure be in bar of dower, it must take effect immediately after the death of the husband, 199.

and be limited to the wife herself, 201.

what is considered a jointure in equity, 202.

it must be, and be expressed to be, in satisfaction of the whole dower, 203-4.

and must be made previous to marriage, 205.

from whom it must come, 206.

Jointures which require the acceptance of the wife, an estate settled after marriage, id.

an estate which may determine during the life of the wife, id.

an estate devised to a woman for life or intail, 208. is not a continuation of the husband's estate, 209. a rent charge now usually limited, 210. not forseited by attainder of the husband, id. nor by elopement or adultery, 210, 242.

who may take a jointure, 210. an infant bound by a jointure, id.

cannot be defeated by the husband, unless his wife joins him in a fine or recovery, 226.

not barred by a devise, 227, VI. 9.

a devise sometimes taken in satisfaction, I. 240.

barred by a common recovery, V. 549.

an estate tail limited as a jointure cannot be barred, I. 56. is a bar of freebench, 331.

how far barred by fine, V. 157.

what is considered a jointure within the statute 11 Hen. 7.

c. 20. for avoiding fines and recoveries by jointreste, V. 400, See Recovery.

powers of limiting jointures, See Powers.

Jointress,-interest and power of, I. 209.

cannot alien or bar an estate tail, id.

has the privileges of a tenant for life, id.

not entitled to crops fown at the time of her husband's death, id.

her executors not entitled to emblements, id.

cannot levy a fine of her jointure, V. 97—whatever estate she creates by fine is void, as against the heir, 40.

cannot

JOINTURE—continued.

Jointress,—interest and power of—continued.

cannot bar her estate by recovery, V. 399, 503, See Recovery.

protected in equity as a purchaser for a valuable consideration, I. 218—although she elopes, 220.

relieved by equity against a prior voluntary conveyance,

equity will fet aside a term for years, in her favour, 221. effect of a covenant that the lands are of a certain value, id.

not allowed to suffer from any neglect during coverture, 223.

allowed to supply a deficiency by committing waste,

when allowed interest for arrears, id. not bound to deliver up title deeds, id. may redeem a mortgage, II. 142.

- JOURNALS of the House of Lords, not Records, III. 195.
- IRELAND, standing orders of the House of Lords, relative to private acts concerning estates there, IV. 560.
- ISLE OF ELY, Fines may be levied in the Bishop's Court, V. 63.
- ISSUE, for the effect of this word in creating particular elatates, See Deed, Devise, and Rule in Shelley's Case.
- JUDGES of the Courts at Westminster, may be removed by petition to the King from both Houses of Parliament, III. 143.

JUDGEMENT.

Judgements not notice to purchasers, II. 250.
under a statute or recognizance, See Estate by Statute,
&c.
in a recovery, See Recovery.

JUDICIAL OFFICES, what estate may be had in them, III.

JUSTICES OF ASSIZE,

have a right to appoint their clerks, III. 135.
may take acknowledgements of fines without a writ of
dedimus potestatem, V. 70.

KINDRED,

K.

KINDRED, a good description in a devise, VI. 187.

KING,

is the chief lord, I. 12. may extend lands intailed for a specialty debt, 48. may by prerogative take a chattel in succession, 252. not within the statute of Gloucester, 257. no laches can be imputed to him; 284. the stewards of his manors appointed by patent, 316. cannot be a copyholder, 350. cannot be seised to a use, 407, 422. may be a cestuique use, 429. may be a trustee, 488. gold and filver mines belong to him, 19. cannot be a joint-tenant, II. 50%. forest lands in his hands not titheable, III. 66. entitled to tithes of extra-parochial lands, 69. cannot creck any new office with fees without consent of parliament, 134. may terminate an abeyance of a dignity, 249. may hold a rent referved out of an incorporeal hereditament, 312. when entitled to escheats, 496. may convey by deed, IV. 14. cannot convey by bargain and sale, 175-by covenant to stand seised, 187-or by lease and release, 198. may declare the uses of a fine or recovery, 221. takes a fee simple without the word heirs, 442. every act of parliament relating to him is a publick ad, 512. may levy a fine, V. 80. bound by the statute de denis, 136. may bar an intail by fine, id. not barred by a fine to which he is not a party, 208. cannot suffer a recovery, 393. is within the statute 32 Hen. 8. c. 28. s. 6, 409. reversions and remainders vested in him not barrable by recovery, 502 may devise land, VI. 12.

KING's GRANT,

nature of, IV. 564.

Grants,

of franchises, id.

of offices, 565.

of crown lands, 566.

of his private property, id.

how construed, 567.

KING's SILVER, See Fines, V. 17.

KNIGHTS TEMPLARS and HOSPITALIERS, exempted from tithes, III. 75.

L.

LANCASTER, Court of the County Palatine of, fines may be levied there, V. 58. and recoveries suffered, 380.

LAND,

meaning of the word, I. 3.

estate in land, 6.

money to be laid out in land, 6, 34, See Money.

when presumed to be held of the King, 12.

what passes in a deed by the word land, IV. 40.

by what description demandable in a fine, V. 104.

annexed to an office, may be barred by fine and nonclaim during the life of the officer, 189.

estect of the word land in a devise, VI. 191.

LANDBOC, IV. 10.

LAPSE of an Advowson, III. 19.

LAY CORPORATIONS, See Corporations.

LAY IMPROPRIATIONS, 69, 70, See Tithes.

LEASE,

described, IV. 115.
of freehold, must be perfected by livery, id.
for years, must be perfected by entry, id.
must have a certain beginning and continuance, 116,
may determine on breach of condition, 118.

Who

LEASE—continued.

: *وقد جناهمه* ـ غندا

Who may make leases, IV. 118.

joint-tenants, coparceners, and tenants in common, id.

tenants in tail, 119.

husbands seised jure uxoris, 120.

ecclesiastics seised jure ecclesiæ, id.

circumstances required in these leases, 121.

tenants for life, 127.

tenants in dower and by curtefy, 128.

tenants for years, 129.

guardians in socage, id.

executors or administrators, id.

Who are incapable of making leases,

idiots and Innatics, 130.

married women, 131.

What leases are void,

leases by tenants in tail as against remainder men, 132. leases by tenants for life on the death of the lesson, id.

leases by tenants for life unwarranted by their power, 204.

leases under a power not well executed, 323.

What leases are voidable,

unwarranted leases by tenants in tail, 131.

unwarranted leases by husband and wife, 132.

distinguished from an assignment, 160.

a freehold lease under a power, good without livery of seisin, 295.

under a power, when said to be in reversion, 303.

concurrent leases, 306.

commencing from the day of date, not faid to be reversion, 309.

under a power, in which the usual rent is to be reserved, must specify the amount of the rent, 316.

under a power, how usually restrained, 295.

what leases are excepted from the register acts, 344.

renewed by a trustee in his own name, subject to the former trust, I. 484.

may be conditioned to determine by bankruptcy, II. 13. substituting prior to a judgement, is a bar in ejectment, 69. by a mortgagor in possession, does not bind a mortgagee, 108.

the assignee of a lease is liable to the covenants, 114. IV.
69—and entitled to the benesit of them, IV. 76.

mortgagec

LEASE—continued.

mortgagee of a lease not liable to the covenants till entry, II. 114.

by a mortgagee in possession, when it will bind a mortgagor, 118.

renewal by a mortgagee in possession, a trust for the mortgagor, I. 121.

for years, of lands limited in use will not destroy contingent uses, II. 376.

for years, by a joint tenant, binds the survivor, 516.—will sever a jointure, 524.

by tenant in tail, when a discontinuance, IV. 119.

for lives, need not be furrendered to make a good tenant to the præcipe, V. 287.

of lands devised, operates as a partial revocation only, VI. 124.

Devises of leaseholds, how revoked, 125.

a lease of a copyhold contrary to custom is a forseiture, II. 363.

Powers of leasing, IV. 293, See Powers.

no trust implied between lessor and lessee, I. 485.

the possession of a lessee for years is the possession of the heir, I. 13, 109. III. 409. 554.

the lessee of a mortgagor has a right to redeem, II. 110. the possession of the lessee of a copyhold is not the possession of the copyholder, III. 481.

a lessee who has paid no sine and pays no rent is not a purchaser within the statute 27 Eliz. c. 4. IV. 383.

a lessee at a rack rent is a purchaser for a valuable consideration within the stat. 27 Eliz. c. 4. 384.

where a lessee for years levies a fine, the lessor is within both the savings of the stat. 4 Hen. VII. V. 181.

Privity which may exist between a lessor and lessee, and their assignees, IV. 73.

LEASE AND RELEASE.

origin and nature of, IV. 195.

the recital of the lease for a year is evidence of such lease against the releasor, 198.

who may convey by it, and what may be conveyed, id. operation of, on estates in remainder and reversion, id. what consideration necessary, 199.

does not devest any estate, id.

Q. Whether a use results on it, 202. I. 445.

operates as an extinguishment of a power relating to the land, IV. 334.

operates without transmutation of possession, I.241, IV.334.

LEASE AND RELEASE—continued.

does not extinguish a power in gross, IV. 335.

nor a collateral power, 337.

to make a tenant to the præcipe, V. 332.

by a particular tenant will not destroy contingent mainders, II. 362.

LEET COURT, III. 279.

LEGACY,

stands on the same ground as a specialty debt, I. 543. out of real property, not within the statute of limitations, III. 567.

what passes by the word legacy in a devise, VI. 197.

a devise of lands charged with legacies gives an estate in fee, 255.

2 legatee may be witness to a will, 75.

LEGAL ESTATES,

the rule in Shelley's case applied to devises of, VI. 324. cannot unite with equitable ones under the rule in Shelley's case, IV. 481. VI. 378.

LETTERS PATENT, dignities by, III. 215.

LICENTIA CONCORDANDI, V. 17,

LIFE, estate for, See Estate for life.

LIMITATION, Statutes of, III. 539. effect of as to write of right, id. as to prescriptive rights, 540.

as to avowries, id.

as to writs of formedon, 541.

as to entry upon lands, and ejectments, id.

the entry must be upon the land, 550.—and sollowed by action, 551.

where a person acquires a new right, id. there must be an adverse possession, 554. to what persons and estates they extend, 557. nullum tempus act, 558.

what persons and estates are not within these statutes, 560, ecclesiastical corporations, id.

advowsons, 561.

dignities,

LIMITATION, Statutes of—continued.

what persons and estates are not within these statutes—continued.

dignities, III. 274:

rents created by deed, 561,

fealty and other services, 563.

bend debts, id.

tithes, 561.

a legacy out of real property, 567.

favings in the statutes of limitation, 563.

where equity adopts the doctrine of these statutes, 564, 566.

LINEAL CONSANGUINITY, III. 373,

LINEAL WARRANTY, IV. 49.

LIVERY OF SEISIN, I. 166 IV. 102.

livery in deed and in law, IV. 103, 104.

livery in law does not transfer the freehold till entry, 104.

may be given and received by attorney, 105.

where equity will presume it or supply the want of it, 106,

necessary to a feoffment, 102.

necessary to the operation of a gift, 111.

but not of a grant, id.

necessary to the completion of a freehold lease, 115,

but not to that of an exchange, 140.

necessary to the completion of a partition at common

law, 143.

not necessary in a surrender, 156.

nor in a freehold lease under a power, 295.

nor to the completion of a fine, V. 6.

livery to one joint-tenant inures to all, II. 515.

LOCAL LIBERTIES, might before the stat. 27 Hen. VIII. be conveyed to uses, I. 408.

LONDON,

custom of barring dower there, I. 179.

a married woman may bind herself in London by a deed

inrolled, V. 154.

a recovery may be suffered in the court of hustings there, 380.

LORD OF A MANOR, I. 3. 293, See Copyholds.

LORD

LORD BY ESCHEAT, See Escheat.

LORDSHIP, equivalent to seigniory or manor, I. 3, 293.

LUNATICS, See Idiots and Lunatics.

M.

MADDER, titheable, III. 55, 63.

MAGNA CHARTA, See Statutes, K. John.

MARLBRIDGE, Statute of, See Statutes, Hen. 3.

MANORS,

what constitutes a manor, I. 3, 293. how destroyed, 5. franchises annexed to manors, 279. manors of ancient demesne, 296.

a manor, although divided, may sometimes retain its rights, 299, II. 545.

a manor, although destroyed, will support copyholds, I. 200.

customary manors may be demised by copy of court roll,

what passes in a deed by the word manor, IV. 39. what in a fine, V. 102.

MARKETS, 'Right of holding them, See Franchise.

MARQUIS, Title of, III. 184.

MARRIAGE,

necessary to curtesy, I. 107.

and to dower, 136.

cannot be made void by the ecclesiastical court after the death of either party, 107.

how the fact of marriage is tried, 137. clandestine marriages not void, 138.

the legality of marriages celebrated in Scotland may be tried by jury, 139.

marriage contracts by female infants, IV. 16.—by male infants, 19.

is a valuable confideration, I. 218, IV. 24, 383.

dignities by marriages, III. 220.

distinction between a conveyance previous to and in confideration of marriage, and a conveyance made afterwards to a wife or children, IV. 383.

provila

MARRIAGE—continued.

proviso in statutes 13 and 27 Elizabeth, in favour of marriage settlements, IV. 388.

how far the confideration of marriage extends, 398. conveyances in derogation of marriage rights, also marriage bonds, and beneficial leases taken as rewards for procuring marriage, are void in equity, 408.

construction of marriage articles, 482.

marriage and birth of a child revokes a devise, VI. 101. Q. whether marriage alone revokes a devise, 105.

revokes a woman's will, id.

conditions in restraint of marriage, See Conditions.

MARRIED WOMEN,

may be copyholders, I. 317.

no act of a married woman amounts to a forfeiture of a copyhold, 376.

may be admitted to copyholds by attorney, 357.

no heriot due on the death of a married woman, 359. a devise of a copyhold by a married woman is void, VI.

37• may be seised to uses, I. 407, 422.

no laches can be imputed to a married woman, 224, 223,

II. 153. trust for the separate use of a married woman, I. 465. cannot be trustees for their husbands, 484.

purchase in the name of a married woman, id.

may be bound by a condition, id.

bound by a decree of foreclofure, 254.

exception in favour of married women in the statutes of limitation, III. 563.

what deeds they may execute, IV. 20.

may be grantees in a deed, 22.

may take from their husbands through a trustee, id.

cannot make leases, 131.

may join with their husbands in declaring the uses of a fine or recovery, 221.

power of, as to levying fines and fuffering recoveries, Fine and Recovery.

effect of a fine in barring a married woman, V. 155. cannot declare the uses of a lease and release, IV. 227. may execute powers of appointment or revocation, 236. may take from their husbands by appointment, 241.

cannot bind themselves at common law by a bargain and Tale, V. 154.

may,

MARRIED WOMEN—continued.

may, by the cultom of London and some other cities, bind themselves by a deed inrolled, V: 154. are disabled from devising, by the statute of wills, VI. 15. may make wills, in case their husbands are banished, or

have abjured the realm, id.

may be devisees, 17.

MEMORIALS,

circumstances required by the register acts, IV. 344: a memorial of a devise may be registered, VI. 11.

MERGER, I. 20.

estates tail not subject to, 38, II. 496.

of trust estates, 503.

of powers, IV. 338.

of an estate for years, I. 263, 265.

where a lessee for years is made tenant to the pracipe, there is no merger, V. 303.

a term for years faved from merger by the statute of uses, L 433.

MESSUAGE,

what was anciently meant by this word, III. 95. what will pass by it in a deed, IV. 40. what in a devise, VI. 195.

MILITARY TENURES, destruction of, IV. 9

MILK, titheable, III. 65.

MILLS, the profits of them are titheable, 66.

MINES,

belong to tenant in fee simple, I. 19.

of gold and filver, belong to the king, id.

opening mines is waste, 66.

cannot be dug for either by the lord of a manor or by the copyhelder, 326.

ere under the protection of trustees to preserve contingent remainders, II. 402.

the profits of mines are not titheable of common right. III. 66.

recoveries cannot be suffered of mines, V. 382.

MONEY

MONEY to be laid out in land, considered in equity as land, I. 6. may be intailed, 34—mode of barring such intail, 57. liable to curtely, 120. does not escheat, III. 522. a fine cannot be levied of it, V. 102. a devise of, within the statute of frauds, VI. 73. will pass by a devise of lands, tenements, and hereditaments, 191.

MORTGAGE,

origin of mortgages, II. 82. interpolition of the court of chancery, 83. description of a mortgage, 86. how mortgages are considered in equity, 8.7. covenant for payment of the mortgage money, id.—effect of, 179, 181. mortgages in fee and for years, 88. restraints on the right of redemption are void, 89. distinguished from a new agreement for a purchase, 95. distinguished from a conditional purchase, 99. Mortgagor,—interest and power of, how confidered in equity, 87. is quasi tenant at will, 106. his interest inferior to that of a tenant at will, 107.

has an equity of redemption after forfeiture, 111. usually made a party to an assignment, 122. loses his right of redemption by fraud, II. 163. may nominate in the case of an advowson, III. 26. Mortgagor in possession,

cannot commit waste, II. 108. cannot make a lease to bind the mortgagee, id. cannot bar the mortgagee by fine, 110, V. 253. may vote at elections, II. 110.

Mortgagee,—interest and power of, 111. how considered in equity, 87.

entitled to rent after notice, 111. of a lease, not subject to covenants until entry. 114. Mortgagee in possession,

must account, 117.

will be allowed his expences, 118.

who assigns his mortgage is answerable for the profits, id.

who colludes with the mortgagor, must account, id. will not be allowed any thing for his trouble in receiving rent, 119.

cannot

MORTGAGE—continued.

Mortgagee, interest and power of-continued,

Mortgagee in possession—continued.

cannot make a lease to bind the mortgagor, II. 119. cannot commit waste, 120.

who renews a leafe, is a trustee for the mortgagor,

cannot present to a living, id. III. 12, 26. cannot bar the mortgagor by fine, II. 122, V. 250. may vote at elections after seven years possession, II. 124.

is a trustee for the mortgagor, 126.

is a purchaser for a valuable consideration within the statute 27 Eliz. c. 4. IV. 384.

a mortgage may be assigned, Ii. 122.

is personal property, id.

An equity of redemption, 125.

origin and nature of, 84, 86, 125.

similar to a trust estate, 126.

is alienable, intailable, and descendible like a trust estate, id.

is devisable like a trust estate, id. VI. 20.

may be mortgaged, 126.

subject to curtesy, 127, I. 120.

of a mortgage in see, not subject to dower, I. 499, II.

of a mortgage for years, subject to dower, I. 449, II.

is assets in equity, II. 139—and sometimes at law,

of a trust estate, is equitable assets, id.

Who may redeem, id.

an heir at law or by custom, id.

a subsequent incumbrancer, 141.

a jointress, 142. the crown, id.

whoever redeems must do equity, id.

no precise time fixed for redemption, 152.

A mortgage is generally irredeemable after 20 years posfession by a mortgagee, 153, III. 565. except,

in cases of disability, II. 153.

where an account has been settled, 156.

where the mortgagee acknowledges the mortgage, id.

MOR'TGAGE—continued.

An equity of redemption—continued.

a mortgage generally irredeemable after 20 years possession by a mortgagee—continued.

except,

where no time of payment has been appointed, II. 158.

where the mortgagor continues in possession, 102, where there is fraud in the mortgagee, id.

forfeited by fraud, 163.

'Q. whether it will escheat to the crown, 142, III. 521. the right to redeem cannot be restrained, II. 89.

case in which a court of equity will not decree a redemption, III. 98.

may be conveyed by bargain and fale, IV. 177.

is within the statute 11 Hen. 7. c. 20. for preventing jointresses from levying fines, or suffering recoveries, V. 402.

of a copyhold, follows the custom as to the legal estate, 552.

is devisable, VI. 20.—such devise within the statute of frauds, 73.

Payment of mortgage money and interest,

personal property first liable, II. 165.—even in favour of a devisee, 166.—and although there be a disposition of the personal estate, or a charge on the real estate, 167.

land devised for payment of debts applied in default of personalty in discharging mortgages, 169.

when real property will be applied in preference to perfonalty in discharging a mortgage,

where a testator exempts his personalty, 173.

where a chattel is specifically bequeathed, it is exempted, 176.

where the charge was originally on real property, 177.

—although there was a covenant for payment,
179.

where the debt was contracted by another, 180—although there be a covenant, 181—or a charge on the real and personal estate, 182.

where only an equity of redemption is purchased, 185—unless the purchaser makes the debt his own, 186.

mortgages by husband and wife, 187.

proportion

MORTGAGE—continued.

Payment of mortgage money and interest—continued.

proportion to be paid by tenants for life and remainder
men in redeeming, II. 188.

of interest, 190.

agreement for lowering interest, 191.

Where interest upon interest is allowed, id.

where a mortgage is assigned, 192.

where an account is stated or settled, id.

where the time of payment is enlarged, id. when allowed against an infant, 193.

Who are bound to pay interest, 194.

tenants in fee and for life, id.

infant tenants in tail, 195—but not a tenant in tail of full age, 194.

mortgage money is payable to executors, 196.

parol evidence of the payment of the debt is admissible,

197.

Order in which mortgages are paid, 198.

mortgages not preferred in equity to judgement debts, id.

legal incumbrances preferred to equitable ones, 199.

priority may be lost by fraud, id.

where possession of the title deeds will give priority,

201.

priority may be lost by a defect in the mortgage, 203. a defective mortgage preferred to a judgement, 204.

Of tacking subsequent to prior incumbrances, 207.

protected by taking in a prior incumbrance, id. 212.
to what entitled on that incumbrance, 213.

protected by a covenant that the first mortgage shall secure subsequent sums, 210.

and also by a term attendant, 216.

who may tack subsequent to prior incumbrances, 211.

who may tack a judgement to a mortgage, 214.

a second mortgagee who takes in a term attendant will prevail in ejectment against a prior mortgagee, 229.

effect of a declaration of trust of a term, 231.

a puisne mortgagee must have the best right to the legal estate, to be entitled to priority, 234.

at what time a prior incumbrance may be got in, 238—pendente lite, id. but not after judgement, 243.

a mortgagee will not be allowed to tack a judgement debt to that due upon the mortgage of a copyhold, V. 553.

what

MORTGAGE—continued.

Of tacking subsequent to prior incumbrances—continued.

what will amount to notice of a prior incumbrance,

II. 249

direct and constructive notice, id.

Foreclosure,

nature of, 251.

will not be decreed before a mortgage is forfeited, 252.

a decree of foreclosure binds an intail, id.

where infants are barred, 254.

feme coverts bound by a decree of foreclosure, id.

time of payment sometimes enlarged, 255. a right to foreclose forfeited by fraud, 163.

decrees of foreclosure sometimes opened, 255.

an advowson may be mortgaged, III. 12.

a copyhold may be mortgaged by furrender, V. 552.

how a mortgage is affected in equity, by the register acts, IV. 349.

not liable to the dower of the mortgagee's wife, I. 155.

by a joint-tenant fevers a jointure, II. 525.

a mortgage is devisable, VI. 21.—such devise within the statute of frauds, 73.

a mortgage of lands devised operates as a partial revocation of the devise, 125.

what words pass mortgages in a devise, 229, See Devise.

MORTMAIN, Statutes of, I. 11.

N.

NATURAL BORN SUBJECTS, who are confidered fuch, III. 375.

NATURALIZED PERSONS, may be freeholders, I. 11. entitled to dower, 146.

NEW RIVER SHARES, are real property, I. 2. fines may be levied of them, V. 101.

NOMINATION,

NOMINATION,

distinguished from presentation, III. 3. a mortgagor of an advowson may nominate, 26.

NONCLAIM, Statute of, V. 126.

NONUSER,

3,

does not devest a rent, III. 345. is a cause of forseiture of a franchise, 302. when a forseiture of an ostice, 166.

NOTE OF A FINE, V. 30.

NOTICE,

What constitutes notice of an incumbrance, II. 249. direct notice, by formal communication, id. constructive notice, by a decree and several other means, id.

id.

a lis pendens, 147.

registering a deed is not notice, IV. 348.

notice to the agent is notice to the party, 353.

notice to the attorney is notice to the party, 357, 362. takes away the effect of registering, 353—the notice must be fully proved, 363.

how proved, 358.

of a prior incumbrance makes a purchaser liable, II. 242. of a trust will make a purchaser liable to the trust, I. 486, 541, 542, II. 384, 416, 211.

necessary to entitle a mortgagee to rent, II. 111.

whether material to invalidate a conveyance under the statutes of Eliz. against fraudulent conveyances, IV. 375. Notice to quit,

a tenant at will must have fix months notice to quit, I. 274—also a tenant from year to year, 279.

a receiver appointed by the court of chancery may give notice to quit, 285.

notice in writing is a sufficient demand, id.

may be given previous to the expiration of a lease, 286. persons holding over after giving notice to quit, must,

by statute 14 Geo. 2. c. 19. s. 18. pay double rent, 128—a parol notice is within this statute, 289.

acceptance of rent is not a waiver of notice to quita

a distress for rent is a waiver of notice to quit, 282.

NULLUM TEMPUS ACT, III. 558.

0.

OCCUPANCY, I. 90. who are called special occupants, 91. general occupancy taken away, 92. of a copyhold, 308. of a rent, III. 336. OFFICES, nature of an office, III. 132. fome offices are real property, I. 2. an estate of freehold may be had in certain offices, 10. are either publick or private, III. 132. are judicial or ministerial, 133. tenure by grand serjeanty, id. the nine great offices of the crown, id. how offices are created, id. the king cannot erect any new offices with fees, without consent of parliament, 134. offices incident to superior ones, id. cannot be granted by the crown, 136. must in general be granted by deed, 137. when in the grant of bishops, are not within the disabling statutes, id. held of the crown, how granted, 135, IV. 565. descent of offices, III. 142, 419. Estates which may be had in different offices, 14h. an estate in see or for the life of the grantee, 142. an estate for years, 143. an estate at will, 144. an estate in remainder or reversion, 145. an estate tail, 147. an estate in dower and by curtesy, 148. fome offices may be held by two persons, 149. · what offices may be assigned, i50. whether an office is within the statute of uses, 152. who may hold offices, id.—--a woman, where the office is merely ministerial, 153. how exercised, 154. difference between a deputy and an assignee, 155. qualifications required for holding offices, 158.

what

of the offence of buying offices, 160.

INDEX:

OFFICES—continued.

what offices are within the statute, 5 and 6 Edw. 6. III. 160.

what offices are not within this statute, 161. what bargains are not within the statute, 163. equity supplies the defect of the statute, 164. How lost,

by forfeiture, 165.

by accepting an incompatible office, 168.

by destruction of the principal, 169. are within the statute of limitations, 558. fines may be levied of offices. V. 00.

fines may be levied of offices, V. 99.

persons having land annexed to offices may be barred by fine and nonclaim, 189.

ORIGINAL WRITS,

of fines, V. 14, See Fine.

of recoveries, 275, See Recovery.

may be amended as to mistakes of the clerk, 411. do not abate on the death of a king or queen, 16.

OUSTER,

of the freehold, I. 15.

a tenant in common, presumed aster long acquiescence to have been ousted, II. 553.

OUTLAWS,

cannot present to livings, III. 32. may levy sines, V. 85.

P.

PARCELS,

how they should be described in a deed, IV. 38.
how in a writ of covenant to levy a fine, V. 102.
how in a declaration of uses, IV. 210.
how in a writ of entry to suffer a recovery, V. 382.
how in a devise, VI. 188, See Devise.
the description of parcels in a writ of covenant to levy a fine, may be amended if erroneous, V. 102.
the description of parcels in a recovery may be amended if erroneous, V. 413.

PARK, See Franchise.

PAROCHIAL CLERGY, entitled to Emblements, I. 88.
PAROL

PAROL EVIDENCE,

that a provision made for a wife was in a bar of dower, not admissible, I. 204.

admitted to show that a purchase was made with trust money, 473.

admitted to prove the payment of a debt, II. 197.

of a promise to account and pay, inadmissible after 11 years, 256.

when admitted to rebut a resulting use, IV. 210.

not admitted to prove that a testator meant his will to remain unrevoked by a subsequent conveyance, VI. 119.

admitted in setting aside a will for fraud, 150.

not allowed to explain a deed, IV. 425—nor a will, VI. 164—except where there is an ambiguitas latens, IV. 425, VI. 164.

PAROL, allowed to demur on account of infancy, V. 225, 508.

PARTIES,

to a deed, IV. 13.

names and descriptions of parties, 34. construction of a deed as to the parties, 429.

to a fine, V. 79.

an error in a christian name cannot be amended, 117. how far barred by it, 150.

to a recovery, 392.

an error in the names will be amended, 412.

PARTITION,

of a joint-tenancy, II. 529, See Joint-tenancy. of an estate in coparcenary, 542, See Coparcenary. of a tenancy in common, 561, See Tenancy in Common. deed of, IV. 143.

PASTURE, Common of, III. 92.

PEER, See Dignities.

PERPETUITIES,

repugnant to law, II. 307.

discouraged both at law and in equity, IV. 494.

history of settlements, 491.

estates may be rendered unalienable for lives in being, and 21 years after, 495.

this rule applicable,

to springing and shifting uses, 496. to uses arising from appointments, id. but not to remainders after estates tail, 503.

I 4

an

PERPETUITIES -- continued.

an unborn person may be made tenant for life, IV. 504.
a vested remainder may be limited after an estate for life
to an unborn person, id.

no estate can be limited to the issue of an unborn person,

505.

an estate may be limited by appointment to a person not born when the power was created, id.

rules relating to perpetuities apply to declarations of trust of terms for years, 506.

may be created by act of parliament, id.

cannot be created by will, VI. 161, 445, 459.

PERSONAL PROPERTY, I. I.

cannot be intailed, 35.

a bequest of personalty is not a bar of dower, 193.

a mortgage is personal property, II. 122.

when applied in discharging mortgages, See Mortgage.

PISCARY, Common of, III. 101.

PLOUGH BOTE, I. 63.

PORTION OF TITHES, III. 67.

POSSESSION,

estates in possession, II. 258.

possession and right of possession, III. 368—a right of possession equivalent to a right of entry, 542, 368.

a right of possession will pass by a fine at common law, V. 120.

of a guardian in socage is the possession of the ward, I. 14, III. 411.

of one joint-tenant is the possession of all, II. 504, 517, III. 555, V. 217.

of one coparcener is the possession of all, II. 539, III. 555.

of one tenant in common is the possession of all, III. 410, 551, 555, V. 217.

of a lessee for years is the possession of the heir, I. 13, 109, III. 409, 554.

of the lessee of a copyhold, not the possession of the copyholder, 481.

adverse, See Adverse possession.

the descent of a dignity not affected by possession, 253; writ of possession on a fine, V. 46.

POSSIBILITY UPON A POSSIBILITY, II. 303.

POST FINE, See King's Silver.

POSTHUMOUS CHILDREN,

take as if born, II. 336.

what time allowed for their birth, III. 374.

are not entitled to the profits received before their births, 386.

POTATOES, titheable, IIL 55.

POVERTY, Degradation of a Peer for, III. 234.

POWERS,

Of revocation and appointment,

nature of, IV. 228.

either relate or are collateral to the land, 229.

powers relating to the land, id.---are either appendant or in gross, id.

powers collateral to the land, 230.

in what deeds inserted, 231.

good without technical words, id.

a power of appointment implies a power of revocation, but not e contra, 232.

an infant in ventre matris, is a proper object of a power

of appointing portions, id.

a power of appointment includes a right to referve a new power, 233---except in the case of collateral powers, 235.

to whom powers may be given, id.---infants, id.---

married women, 236.

who may be appointees, 241.

a power of appointment does not suspend the vesting of remainders, id. II. 288.

Execution of,

may be restrained by circumstances, IV. 246.

where a particular instrument is specified it must be

adopted, 252.

a power given generally may be executed, either by deed or will, 253---but they must be properly executed, 254.---except in the case of collateral powers, 255.

a will made in execution of a power retains all its

properties, 256.

the power need not be recited, 257.

the instrument must refer to the estate, 259.

a power may be executed by several instruments, id.
---and at different times and over different parts of
the estate, 260.

Appointment

POWERS—continued.

Of revocation and

Of revocation and appointment—continued. execution of—continued.

Appointment under a power,

conveys the legal estate to the appointee, I. 461.
must be to uses which might have been created by
the deed giving the power, IV. 467.

may be only a revocation pro tanto, 261.

may give a lesser estate, 262.

must not be illusory, 263.

an unwarranted condition annexed is void, 268. to persons not objects of the power is void, 269. when an instrument will operate as an appointment, 276.

must be registered, 346.

may be made to a person unborn at the creation of the power, 505.

effects of execution, 281.

will not defeat a prior estate, 285.

uses arising from the execution of powers, I. 437. an execution of a power relating to the land may be confirmed by fine and nonclaim, V. 169.

In what cases equity will support a desective execution, IV. 324.

where there is a confideration, 325.

where there is fraud, 329.

where a complete execution is prevented by accident, id.

equity will not supply a non-execution, 330.

an execution operates as an extinguishment, 333. Power of limiting a jointure,

origin of, IV. 287.

construction of the words, not exceeding the clear yearly value, id.

modern practice as to powers of jointuring, 289.

power to limit a jointure proportioned to the wife's fortune, id.

may be given on condition that the marriage shall be with the consent of a third person, 292.

in a devise of a legal estate, does not prevent the operation of the rule in Shelley's case, VI. 324.

Power of leasing,

origin of, IV. 293.

construed strictly, 294.

a condition in a power of leasing is precedent, 204.

qualifications

POWERS—continued.

Power of leasing—continued.

qualifications destructive of the power are dispensed with, IV. 295.

Restrictions usually annexed,

as to the inftrument, 295.

as to the lands to be leased, 296.

as to the time when the lease is to commence, when a lease is said to be in reversion, 304.

a general power authorizes leases in possession only, id.

of concurrent leases, 306.

a lease to commence from the day of date is not in reversion, 309.

as to the duration of the leafe, 309.

as to the rent, 313.

as to the clauses and covenants, 320.

in what conveyances it may be inserted, 322.

the lease is void if the power be not well executed, 323. not barred by a charge on the land, 336.

Power to commit waste, See Waste, I. 80.

How powers may be extinguished and destroyed, IV. 333. a complete execution, id.

a release, id.

Powers relating to the land,

by fine or recovery, or any conveyance under the statute of uses, operating without transmutation of possession, id.

a power in gross relating to the land, not barred by a

conveyance of the land, 335.

a collateral power not barred by a release or conveyance, 337—by fine and nonclaim, V. 172—nor by a recovery, 468.

a power may be merged, IV. 338.

a power may be forfeited to the crown, 399—in what case the crown may execute such a power, id.

when a power becomes void, 342.

why powers of revocation, sale, and exchange are given in modern settlements to trustees, 381.

a person cannot empower himself to give lands by a will not duly executed, VI. 69.

what words in a devise create a power of sale, 435.

PRÆMUNIRE, Persons incurring its penalties cannot be freeholders, I. 11.

PRÆCIPE

INDEX,

PRÆCIPE IN A RECOVERY, allowed to be amended, V. 413.

PREBENDARY,

restrained from waste by a prohibition from the court of chancery, I. 79, See Ecclesiastics seised jure ecclesia, V. 188, 210.

PREDIAL TITHES, III. 54.

PREMISSES OF A DEED, IV. 33.

PRESCRIPTION,

origin of, III. 523.

in the person and in the estate, 526.

What may be claimed by prescription, id.

incorporeal hereditaments, id.

a tenancy in common, 527.

a frank foldage appendant to the land, id.

in general, nothing but what lies in grant, 528.

certain franchises, id.

nothing that owes it origin to a matter of record, 530.

not a court baron, id.

an easement, id,

what may be the object of prescription in a que estate,

531.

must be time out of mind, id.

must have had a continued usage, 532.

must be certain and reasonable, 533.

what prescriptions are void, id.

how it may be loft, 536.

negative prescription, 538, See Limitation, Statutes of.

to a right of inducting, 18.

de non decimando, 73. de modo decimandi, 89.

to a right of common, See Common.

to a right of way, See Ways.

to a franchise, 249, 528.

to a right of endowment of tithes, 69.

prescriptive rights restrained by the statutes of limitation,

PRESENTATION to a benefice, III. 15, See Advowson. PRESENTMENT,

of the surrender of a copyhold, V. 540.

of the forfeiture of a copyhold recommendable, but not necessary, I. 377.

PRESUMPTIVE

PRESUMPTIVE HEIR, III. 388.

PRIMER FINE, V. 15.

PRIMOGENITURE, Right of, takes place amongst males, III. 389. formerly took place amongst females as to dignities, 245.

PRIVATE ACT,

origin of, IV. 509.

what makes an act private, 511.

fome cases in which it may be obtained, 513.

mode of passing it, 516.

operation of, 519.

does not bind strangers, id.

will bar an estate tail, and all remainders over, 520.

will not bar a remainder after an estate for life, 525.

how construed, 526.

essection of the general saving, 535.

may be relieved against, 544.

standing orders of the house of lords, 553—where the estate is in Ireland, 560.

PRIVITY,

meaning of the word, V. 133.

who are privies under the statute 4 Hen. 7. c. 24. id.

between a tenant for years and a remainder man, II. 404.

between a lessor and lessee, and their assignees, IV. 73.

between a surrenderor and a surrenderee, 160.

privity in blood, under the statute 4 Hen. 7. c. 24. V. 133.

privity of contract and estate, IV. 73.

Of estate,

requisite to a use, I. 403-5.

not necessary between a cestuique trust and his trustee,

492.

between tenant from year to year and his lessor, 279. between a releasor and a release, IV. 147.

PRIVY SEAL, Recoveries by, V. 395.

PROCLAMATIONS,

for an heir of a copyholder to be admitted, must be made viva voce, I. 369.
of fines, V. 37, See Fine.

PROVISO,

PROVISO,

an estate for years may be made determinable by it, I. 253.

for trustees indemnity, 551.

for appointing new trustees, 558.

restraining an equity of redemption is void, II. 89.

for shifting an estate, 359.

that a person shall take a certain name and arms, 359. the word proviso creates a condition in a deed, IV. 467.

PURCHASE,

title by, III. 371, 489.

distinguished from descent, 490.

words of purchase distinguished from words of limitation,

437, IV. 481, 490.

where a purchaser must see to the application of purchasemoney, I. 542.

PURCHASER,

protected from dower by a term attendant, I. 516, 534. may redeem a mortgage without paying a bond debt, II. 144.

witheut notice, may tack a mortgage to a prior incum-

brance, 211.

who are purchasers under the statute 27 Eliz. c. 4. IV. 382.

what conveyances are void as against purchasers, See Deed.

Q.

QUARANTINE of a widow, I. 160.

QUARRIES,

not titheable of common right, III. 66. recoveries cannot be suffered of them, V. 382.

QUEEN,

Queen confort,
entitled to dower although an alien, I. 145.
is a feme sole, and may convey by deed, IV. 14.
may levy a fine, V. 80.
may devise real property, VI. 13.

Queen

QUEEN—continued.

Queen regnant,
cannot be seised to a use, I. 407, 422.
cannot convey by bargain and sale, IV. 175—by covenant to stand seised, 187—or by lease and release, 198.
may declare the uses of some certain conveyances, 221, 227.

QUIT RENTS,

nature of, III. 310. are deducted from the fines payable on copyholds, I. 355.

R.

RECITAL,

iu a deed, IV. 37—how construed, 430. of a lease, in a deed of release, 198. of a power, not required in the execution of it, 257. in a will, does not operate as a devise, VI. 175.

RECOGNIZANCE, See Estate by Statute, &c. II. 63.

described, and distinguished from a bond, IV. 170.

form of, id.

allowed priority over a bond, 171.

on what lands a lien, id.

does not bind land in the hands of a bond side creditor without inrollment, id.

RECORD,

alienation by matter of record, IV. 559.
matter of record distinguished from a thing recorded, 336.
debts of record, See Debts.
no evidence allowed to contradict a record, V. 33, 507.
the record of a fine levied in one term, not allowed to be
altered to another term, 116.
execution of a recovery must appear on record, 373.

RECOVERY,

origin of, V. 268.
how suffered, 271.
the voucher may be double, treble, &c. 273.
when complete, id.
passes a fee simple without the word heirs, 274.

The

RECOVERY—continued.

The writ of entry,

why always in the post, V. 276.

fines due to the king on it, id.

construed more favourable than in an adversary suit, id.

tule of court, 278.

may be amended, 411, 413.

how the parcels should be described, 382.

The tenant to the præcipe, 272.

why he must have a freehold, 279.

the acquisition of the freehold at any time before judge-

ment is sufficient, 280.

if he has the freehold when judgement is given, the recovery is good, although his estate be afterwards defeated, 282, 302.

a disseisor is a good tenant to the pracipe, 283.

is always presumed to be a good one, id.

a person having an estate of freehold limited aster a devise to executors, for and until payment of debts, may make a good tenant to the præcipe, 285.

must be in possession, 287.

In what cases a life estate must be surrendered,

leases for lives need not be surrendered, id.

a prior estate for life must be surrendered, 289—to whom? 290.

a surrender sometimes presumed, id.

collateral evidence of a surrender admitted, 291.

a surrender not presumed without sufficient grounds, 292.

where the tenant for life suppresses the deeds, a sur-

render will be presumed, 301.

a person having an equitable interest may make a good tenant to the præcipe, so as to suffer an equitable recovery, 301, 461.

made by what conveyances,

by fine, 302.

the cognizee must take a freehold, id.—where he is lessee for years, there is no merger, 303.

a declaration of uses not necessary, id.

not the only means in the case of a husband seized jure uxoris, 305.

an eviction of the tenant subsequent to the judgement in the recovery, will not invalidate it, 302.

by

1 N D E X.

RECOVERY—continued.

The tenant to the præcipe—continued.

made by what conveyances—continued.

by feoffment, V. 307—when such seoffment operates by disseisin, 308.

by bargain and sale inrolled, 332—a husband seised jure uxoris, may make a good tenant to the præcipe

by bargain and fale, 357. by leafe and releafe, 332.

a husband seised in right of his wife, may make a good tenant to the præcipe without her joining, 305.

cases in which a recovery is valid, without a tenant to

the præcipe, 333.

the deed constituting a tenant to the precipe, is by statute 14 Geo. 2. c. 20. unimpeachable after an acquiescence of 20 years, id.

an alien is a good tenant to the præcipe till office found,

393•

where an infant suffers a recovery, he must make a tenant to the præcipe by seossment, and give livery of seisin in person, 396.

Voucher, 272.

nature of, 338.

may be double, treble, &c. 273.

fingle and double voucher, 338.

voucher in person and by attorney, 339.

form of the entry and warrant of attorney, id.

rules of court respecting the warrant of attorney, 342.

Writ of summoneas ad warrantizandum, 346.

should bear date before the warrant of attorney, id. situation of the vouchee, after entering into warranty,

347.

number and times of the returns, 348—how far the court of common pleas will enlarge the return, id.

effect of joint-vouchers in barring an intail, See farther on "Effects of a Recovery in barring Estates tail."

a recovery without voucher does not bar the issue in tail,

what estates may be barred by a recovery, with single, double, and treble voucher, id.

in what cases the death of a recoveree before judgement, will make the recovery void, 353, 364.

reason of the different effects of single, double, and treble voucher, 442.

whys

RECOVFRY—continued.

Voucher—centinued.

when incapacity in the vouchee can be assigned for error. V. 507, 508, 518.

a release of errors from the common vouchee, is no bar to a writ of crror, 510.

Judgement,

nature of, 351.

form of the entry on the record, id.

if any of the parties die before judgement, the recoverge is void, 352.

bears a relation to the first or other day of term, id. cannot be given on a Sunday, 364.

a mistake in the entry allowed to be amended, 417.

Execution,

nature cf, 371.

writ of bubere facias seismam, 371, 373.

when it thould bear date, 371.

may be amended, as also the return, 418.

may be such against the heir, 372:

must appear on record, 373.

all the proceedings may be inrolled, 376.

statute 14 Gco. 2. c. 20. s. 4. what is evidence of a recovery, ic.

In what courts it may be suffered,

court of common pleas, 379—rules of court, 273, 342•

court of great sessions in Wales, 379.

courts of Chester, id.

courts of the counties palatine of Lancaster and Durham, 350.

court of huitings in London, id.

Of what things a recovery may be fuffered, every thing whereof a writ of entry lies, 381. advowfors and ecclefiaftical profits, id. rents, &c. isling out of lands, 382, a contingent remainder, II. 452. tithes impropriate, III. 70.

how a recovery affects a rent, 335. not of a fishery, &c. V. 382.

by what descriptions, 382.

Who may fuffer recoveries, 392.

a married woman may join her husband, IV. 22, V-398 --- the should be privately examined, 396.

RECOVERY—continued. Who may suffer recoveries—continued. where a married woman, having the trust of a term, joins in a recovery of the land, the is barred of her claim; V. 459. an alien, 393. Who are disabled from suffering recoveries, id. the king; id. an infant should not be permitted to suffer a recovery, 393 --- as such recovery can be avoided only during his minority, id. infants formerly suffered recoveries by privy seal, 395. an infant trustee may join in a recovery under the direction of the court of chancery, 397. where an infant fuffers a recovery, he must make a tenant to the præcipe by feofiment, and give livery in person, 396. idiots or lunatics should not be allowed to suffer recoveries, as such recoveries cannot be reversed, 397. tenants for life, 398--a tenant for life may join with the remainder man or reversioner, 399. Women feised of dower or jointure, id. stat. 11 Hen. 7. c. 20. id: who are jointresses within this statute, 400. a trust or equity of redemption is within the statute, 40%. what estates are not within the statute, 403. Husbands seised jure unoris, 408. stat. 32 Hen. 8. c. 28. s 4. id. what persons and estates are within the statute, id. ecclesiastics seised jure ecclesia, 409. Amendment of recoveries, 411. the writ of entry amended, 412. a mistake in the names of the parties amended, 413. the defcription of parcels amended, idamendment not allowed on affidavit only, 415case in which it will not be allowed, 416. a mistake of the clerk in the judgement amended, 417: there must be something to amend by, 418. Q. whether allowed after exemplification, 419. Effect of a recovery in barring estates tail, a recovery bars an intail, I, 38, 54, V. 427. the issue in tail not barred by a recovery, operating by way of estoppel, unless there be a tenant to the pittcipe, V. 333. ancient mode of barring intails, 420.

a recovery

RECOVERY—continued.

Effect of a recovery in barring estates tail—continued.

a recovery bars the issue in tail, although the tenant in tail die before the recovery is executed, V. 428.

a tenant in tail who is diffeised, and releases to the diffeisor, may still bar the intail remainders and reversion by recovery, id.

a tenant in tail who levies a fine with proclamations, may still bar the remainders and reversion by recovery, id—Q. whether the issue of such tenant in tail can but the remainders and reversion by recovery, 429.

effect of a recovery by an attainted tenant in tail, 43c. a tenant in tail who covenants to stand seised to certain uses, may suffer a valid recovery to other uses, id.

a tenant in tail in remainder may join with a tenant for life in a recovery, 431.

effect of joint-vouchers, id.

where a præcipe is brought against a man and his wife, the husband being sole tenant in tail, and both touch, id.

where a præcipe is brought against a tenant for life and a remainder-man jointly, and both vouch, 432 where two persons joint-tenants for life, remainder to one in tail, vouch jointly, 437.

where an estate is limited to husband and wife, and the heirs of their bodies, and they vouch jointly, 438, 446.

an intail of a rent-charge may be barred, 440.

a recovery by a tenant in tail bars all collateral conditions subsequent to the estate tail, 468.

a recovery by a tenant in tail lets in incumbrances, 484—and confirms conveyances and settlements made by him, 485.

cannot by statute 32 Hen. 8. c. 8. be barred by recoveries, 490.

construction of the statute, 492.

no alteration of the limitations will enable the tenant to bar his issue or the reversion, 496.

where lands are conveyed to the crown for the purpose of getting a re-conveyance in tail, such estate tail is not protected by the statute, 497.

the cltate tail must be a reward for services, id.

some of acquiring a good title to an estate tail, of
which the remainder or reversion is in the crown, 503.

essection.

RECOVERY—continued.

effects of, in barring remainders and reversions, V. 451.

where an heir in tail is disinherited by a recovery, a court of equity will allow him to examine the recovery, and the deed to make a tenant to the præcipe, 456, operation of, different from that of a fine, 457.

Effects of a recovery in barring

Dower and jointure,

- a recovery suffered by husband and wife will bar dower, I. 179, V. 458—and jointure, I. 226, V. 459.
- a recovery by a husband alone will not bar dower,

Trust estates, I. 493, V. 459.

an equitable recovery will not in general operate on a legal estate, V. 460--exception, 461. what possession necessary, id.

Powers,

a recovery bars a power appendant or in gross, 466. operates as an extinguishment of a power relating to the land, IV. 334—but not of a collateral power, 337.

collateral conditions, V. 468---the recovery must be

suffered by a tenant in tail, 471.

a writ of error to reverse a fine, 288, 472. operates as a forfeiture of an estate for life, 474.

may operate by estoppel, 333, 475.

may alter the descent of an estate tail, 476, III. 402-but not of an estate in see simple, V. 484.

revokes a devise, id. VI. 110.

lets in incumbrances, V. 484.

confirms a preceding conveyance by a tenant in tail, 485. its effects in letting in incumbrances different from those of a fine, 487.

What persons, estates, and interests are not barred by a recovery, 488.

persons who are not parties, id.

estates precedent to that of which the recovery is suffered, 489.

an executory devise, 490, VI. 444.

estates tail granted by the crown as a reward for services, V. 490.

reversions vested in the crown, 502.

estates by statute merchant, &cc. II. 73, V. 503. estates held in dower and as jointures, id.

How

RECOVERY -- continued.

How reversed,

Writ of error,

must be brought in the king's bench, unless the error is in process, V. 504.

when brought on a judgement given in the court of great session in Wales, is returnable in the king's bench, id.

who may bring a writ of error, 505.

for to whom the lands would have gone, id.—
does not pals to the crown on an attainder for treafon, 506.

no error can be assigned that contradicts the record,

when the incapacity of a vouchee may be assigned for error, 507, 518.

the parol allowed to demur on account of the infancy of the tenant, 508.

not barred by a release of errors from the common vouchee, 510.

must be brought within 20 years, id.

How fallified,

' by trial in ejectment, 512.

by action, id.

by action and plea, id.

a tenant for years may fallify, 514.

by fraud or imposition, 514—will restrain the operation of a recovery to the purposes for which it was intended, 514.

may operate as a discontinuance of an estate tail, 233. the right of suffering a recovery cannot be restrained.

a covenant from a tenant in tail not to suffer a recovery held to bind his assets, 456.

a bond from a tenant in tail not to suffer a recovery held good, II. 10.

Recovery of a copyhold in the manor court, 571.

usual mode of suffering it, 572.

a tenant for life of a copyhold does not forfeit his estate, by suffering a recovery, id.

a recovery upon a plaint in the nature of a real action is a discontinuance, and takes away the entry of the heir in tail, 573.

RECOVERY—continued.

Recovery of a copyhold in the manor court—continued.

how reverse 1, V. 573.

a custom of barring the intails of copyholds by recovery, is good, 579.

Recoveries of customary freeholds, 577.

how a recovery of ancient demaine lands may be reversed,

deed to lead the uses of a recovery, IV. 212.

deed to declare the uses of a recovery, 219.

to what uses agrecovery enurce where there is no declaration, I. 451.

RECTORY, meaning of the word and its force in a writ of covenant, V. 103.

REDDENDUM OF A DEED, IV. 47.

REDEMPTION, Equity of, See Mortgage.

REGISTER ACTS, See Decd.

a will may be registered, VI. 1.1.

RELATION,

the different parts and ceremonies of a conveyance relate to each other, V. gel.

a judgement in a recovery relates to the first or other day of term, 552.

the admittance of a copyholder relates to the surrender,

a bargain and sale relates to the time of involument, IV.
182.

RELEASE,

origin and description of, IV. 143.

operative words, 144.

that enures by way of mitter l'estate, 145.

that enures by way of mitter le droit, 145—gives a see simple without the word heirs, 146, 442.

that enures by way of enlargement, 147—requires technical words, 149.

there must be a privity of estate between the releasor and releasee, 147.

there must be a posission in t'e re leasee, 148.

that enures by way of extinguishment, 152.

what may be released, 151.

a release may contain powers, 237.

will extinguish a power, 333.

¥ 4

學训

RELEASE—continued.

will not bar a collateral power, . V. 337.

al owed to operate as a grant of a reversion, 421.

a vouchee may release to a demandant in a recovery, V.

a release of errors from the common vouchee will not bar a writ of error, 510.

effect of a release of rights to a copyholder in possession, 585.

is the proper mode of conveyance between joint-tenants, and severs the jointure, Il. 526.

release of a right of common, III. 114.

when a rent may be referved in a release, 314.

a release of a copyhold to the lord is an extinguishment, I. 386.

REMAINDER,

estates in possession and expectancy, II. 25%.

definition of an estate in remainder, 259.

a remainder cannot be limited after a grant of a qualified fee, 260.

A vested remainder, id. 264.

cannot be limited after a fee simple, 259, 261.

may be aliened and charged, 261.

may be limited after an estate for life to an unborn perfon, IV. 505.

may be devested by a fine levied by a tenant for life, V. 233.

may be conveyed by bargain and fale, IV. 176.

by covenant to fland seised, 187. and by lease and release, 198.

Contingent remainders,

when a remainder is said to be contingent, II. 261.

Exceptions,

limitation to A. for 99 years, if he so long live,

rule in Shelley's case, 268, IV. 470.

limitation to the right heirs of the grantor, H. 268. the word beir sometimes a descriptio persone, 269.

what kind of uncertainty renders a remainder contingent, id.

when acontingent remainder is said to become vested, 271 a contingent remainder may intervene between the particular estate and a vested remainder, 280.

REMAINDER—continued.

Contingent remainders—continued.

two or more confingent estates may be limited in fee in the alternative, II. 281.

a remainder limited after a fee simple cannot be vested, 286—except a contingent determinable fee, 287.

a power of appointment does not suspend the subsequent limitations, 288.

when a contingency annexed to the preceding estate is a condition precedent, id.

adverbs of time only denote the period when the remainder is to vest in possession, 295.

Event upon which a contingent remainder may be limited, it must be a legal act, 301.

a limitation to a bastard is void, id.

also a limitation to a corporation not existing, 302.

it must be a potentia propinqua, id,

it must not be repugnant to any rule of law, 304. nor contrariant in itself, id.

it must not abridge the particular estate, 308.

conditional limitations, 314.

estates may be enlarged on condition, 312, 317. Estate necessary to support a contingent remainder,

where the remainder is freehold, it must be supported by a freehold, 320--- otherwise where it is for years,

a right of entry will support a contingent freehold remainder, 326---but not a remainder limited by

way of use, 328.

where the legal estate is in trustees, a contingent remainder does not require any estate to support it, 329.

the estate supporting, and the contingent remainder fhould be created by the same instrument, 330.

At what time a contingent remainder should vest,

a contingent remainder must vest during the continuance of the particular estate, 333.

a vested remainder may take effect, though the preceding estate be deseated, 335.

posthumous children take as if born, 336.

a contingent remainder may vest at the instant the particular estate determines, 341.

a remainder may fail as to one, and take effect as to another, id .--- may take effect in some, though not in all, 343.

12

Contingent remainders—continued.

At what time a contingent remainder should vest—age timed.

in what case a remainder which has been destroyed may be restored, II. 344.

How destroyed,

a termination of the particular estate before the contingency happens, 360.

a scotiment by a tenant in tail, 360—and by a tenant for life, 361.

a fine or recovery by the particular tenant in most cases, id. V. 471, 502, VI. 522.

a surrender by a tenant for life, of his life estate, II.
361.

not by a conveyance by way of use, 362—nor 2 conveyance by a cestuique trust, id.

certain acts amounting to a forfeiture of an estate for life, will not destroy contingent remainders, id.

an extinguishment of the particular estate, 363. an asteration in the quantity of the particular estate, id.

the descent of the reversion on the estate for life in some cases, 366.

distinguished from contingent uses, 374.

Trustees to preserve contingent remainders, 381.

by whom invented, 382.

·· • · :

cannot be created by bargain and sale, or covenant to stand seised, id.

not necessary where the contingent limitations are only trusts, id.

where they join in a conveyance, it is a breach of trust, id.

sometimes not punished for destroying remainders, 385.

sometimes directed to join in destroying remainders, 388.

distinction between punishing them for joining, and

compelling them to join, 401.

are bound to preserve timber, mines, &c. 402.

deficts which they were invented to remedy, 400.

what estate they take in point of law, and what actions they may maintain, 410.

Contingent remainders—continued.

Frustees to preserve contingent remainders—continued, what estate they take, and to what remedies they are entitled in equity, II. 411.

cannot maintain an action of waste, 410.

may bring a bill for an injunction to stay waste, 413. how far chargeable in equity with a breach of trust, 415.

when limited by way of use or by devise, the inheritance

remains in the grantor and his heirs, 441.

when limited by common law conveyances, how far the inheritance is in abeyance, 448,

of inheritance, are transmissible, 450—exception, 451. pass by fine operating by estoppel, 452, V. 202, VI. 522.

pass by recovery, II. 453.

are assignable in equity, 453, VI. 522.

are devisable, II. 453, VI. 23, 521.

Remainders limited by way of use, Il 345.

must be supported by an actual entry, 328, 345.

a scintilla juris remains in the seossees, 347.

will vest in favour of the persons becoming entitled, 350.

when limited by a conveyance operating by transmutation of possession, 346.

must have the same estates to support them as remainders at common law, 348.

a resulting use will be sufficient to support them, 349.

doctrine of the scintilla juris, 347, 407. contingent and springing uses, See Uses.

the inheritance remains in the grantor, 441.

are transmissible, 451.

how destroyed,

when created without transmutation of possession, by a conveyance which takes away the covenantor's or bargainor's right of entry, 369.

when created by transmutation of possession, by develting the scintilla juris of the seoffees, 372.

Remainders expectant on estates tail,

may take effect at any indefinite time, IV. co3. barred by a private act of parliament, 520.

by warranty, 61. and by recovery, V, 451.

Remainders expectant on estates tail-continued.

not barred by fine, V. 148.

not barred in the case of a copyhold by surrrender,

Q. Whether barred in the like case by a grant of the freehold to a copyholder in tail, 584.

a remainder expectant on a freehold, descends to the heirs of the person in whom it first vested, III. 461.

descent of remainders, See Descent.

an estate tail after possibility may be had in a remainder, I. 99.

n remainder may be held in joint tenancy, II. 499.

may be had in an advowfon, III. 8,

and in a dignity, 226.

a rent may be granted in remainder, 343.

a remainder may be created by feossment, IV. 108.

may be limited in the concord of a fine to a person not named in the original writ, V. 26.

a fue may be levied of a remainder, 100.

an equitable remainder barred by fine and nonclaim, 162.

a remainder vested in the crown not barred by recovery, 502.

2 remainder after a demise to a man and his heirs is woid, VI. 277.

no devise is decimed executory which can be supported as a remainder, 444, 456.

cross remainders, IV. 459, See Cross Remainders.

effect in a devise of the words remainder and residue of all my effects, VI. 197.

effect of the word remainder in passing an estate in see in a demise, 252.

Remaindermen-interest and power of,

not bound by the acts of tenants in tail, I. 41, 50. IV. 119.

not obliged to be admitted to copyholds where a tenant for life has been admitted, I. 346.

eannot enter for conditions broken, II. 51.

where a remainderman redeems a mortgage he must pay two-thirds, 118.

a remainderman cannot compel a tenant in tail to pay interest on a mortgage, 194.

need not be parties to the deeds under which they claim, IV. 12

when

Remaindermen—interest and power of—continued.

how affected by fines at common law, V. 120.

when allowed five years from the accruing of their rights

to avoid a fine, 171.

may make entries to avoid fines, 2411

RENEWAL OF A LEASE,

by a trustee, subject to the former trusts, I. 484. by a mortgagee, a trust for the mortgagor, II. 121. when it alters the course of descent, III. 397.

RENTS,

origin of, III 306.
must be certain, 307.
need not consist of money, id.
must be payable yearly, id.
must issue out of the thing granted, id.
Rent service, 308.

discharge of a rent service, 348. apportionment of a rent service, 357.

what rent services may be apportioned, 358.

a rent service incident to a reversion may be apportioned by a grant of part of the reversion, 359.

a rent service may be apportioned by a devise to several persons, 360.

by a partial eviction of the tenant, id.

by act of God or of law, 361.

Rent charge, 308.

how created, 317.

is against common right, 309, 353.

a rent for owelty of partition is called a rent charge of common right, 309.

a rent charge now usually limited by way of jointure, I. 210.

a grant of a rent charge will not destroy contingent uses, IL 376.

may les granted in see without the word heirs, IV. 441. discharge of, III. 353.

mode of exonerating a part of the lands charged, 354. a recovery may be suffered of a rent charge, V. 382.

an intail with remainders of a rent charge may be barred by recovery, 440.

distinction between a recovery suffered of a rent charge in tail with a remainder over, and of a rent charge in tail without such a remainder, id.

Rent seck, III. 309.—cannot be extended by elegit, II. 71.

RENTS-centinued. rents of assize, III. 309. quit rents, 310 -are deducted from the fines payable by copyholders, I. 355. fee farm rents, III. 310. out of what a rent may issue, 311. in general only out of corporeal hereditaments, id. a rent cannot be referved upon a rent, 312. a rent may be referved to the king from an incorporeal reditament, id. In what conveyances a rent may be referred, 313. when in a release, 314. in a bargain and sale to uses, id. in a covenant to stand seised, IV. 192. there may be several reservations of rents in the same conveyance, id. how feifin may be had of a rent, III. 318. to whom refervable, id. at what time payable, 324. I. 288. when a rent goes to executors, when to the heir, III. 326. when demandable and due, 327. distress, 329. is a waiver of notice to quit, I. 282. for rent granted for owelty of partition, is of common right, II. 546. the lord by escheat may distrain, III. 498. condition of re-entry, 330. clause of entry, 331. right of entry by way of use, 332. ejectment for nonpayment, 333. where equity will affift in recovering a rent, id, actions of debt and covenant, 334. may be held in fee or in tail, 335. effect of a recovery, id. may be held for life or years, 336. occupancy of a rent, id. are affects in the hands of the heir as special occupant, 337. an effate pour auter vie in a rent is devisable, id. subject to curtesy, 338. and to dower, 339. are within the statute of uses, 341. exection of rents de 2000 provided for by the statute of

tedw.

uses, id.

RENTS—continued.

what remedies and rights are transferred by the statutes of uses, III. 342.

may be granted in remainder, 343.

a rent de novo may commence in futuro, 344.

a rent de movo may cease sor a time, 345.

cannot be develted, id.

how forfeited, 346.

discharge and apportionment of rents, See ante.

statute 11 Geo. II. for apportioning rent, 362.

acceptance of rent, See Acceptance.

receipt of rent not necessary to give seisin, I. 13, 159.

refusal of a copyholder to pay rent is a forfeiture, 375.

a mortgage entitled to rent after notice, II. 111.

tenants at sufferance holding over after giving notice to quit, must pay double rent, I. 288.

a posthumous child entitled to rent, although accruing beforc his birth, II. 336.

rent is incident to a reversion, 458.

descent of, III. 418.

customary rents are within the statute of limitations, 558 ---but not rents created by deed, 561.

Rents in ese, pass by bargain and sale, IV. 177--- fines. may be levied of them, V. 99.

rent is a sufficient consideration in a bargain and sale, IV. 179.

will pass by lease and release, 198.

rent cannot be referred on a fine executed, V. 45.

the intail of a rent barred by fine, 143.

a fine levied by a stranger does not bar a rent in the possession of a third person, 213.

in what sense capable of disseisin, 214.

there can be no discontinuance of a rent, 236.

are devisable, VI. 21.

the words all my rents will pass real estates in a devise, 195.

REPRESENTATION, right of, 391, See Descent.

REPUBLICATION OF A DEVISE, VI. 129. See Devise,

RESIGNATION BONDS, III. 42. See Advowson.

RESTITUTION OF BLOOD, III. 241, 378.

RESULTING TRUSTS, I. 471, See Trusts.

RESULTING

RESULTING USES, I. 442, See Uses.

REVERSION,

description of, II. 454.

areversion could not be reserved after a conditional see before the statute de donis, 455.

cannot now be reserved after a grant of a qualified or base fee, id.

arises by construction of law, 457.

is a vested interest, id.

incidents to reversions, 458.

a reversion expectant on a term for years,

is present assets, 459, IV. 168.

is subject to dower, I. 149.

expectant on an estate for life is quasi assets, II.460. IV. 163. expectant on an estate tail,

is assets when it comes into possession, H. 460. IV. 168. is assets when in possession, for the payment of debts, although devised away, 462.

bound by a judgement, 490.

liable to leafes made by persons who were at any time entitled to it, 491.

reversions not assets for the payment of bond debts of an intermediate tenant for life, who was entitled to the reversion in fee, II. 486.

nor for the payment of the debts of any person but the ancestor from whom the lands immediately descended, 490.

all particular estates except estates tail, merge in the reversion, 496.

a reversion may be held in joint tenancy, 499.

may be had in an advowson, III. 8.

and in certain offices, 145.

descent of reversions, See Descent.

a reversion of which the right is vested may be conveyed, by bargain and sale, IV. 176. and by lease and release, 198.

when leases under a power are said to be in reversion, 303, 309.

a reversion allowed to pass by a release by way of grant, to effectuate the intention of the parties, 421.

fines may be levied of reversions, V. 100.

an equitable reversion barred by fine and nonclaim, 162.

a fine sometimes lets in a reversion, 148, and makes it liable to prior incumbrances, 201.

REVERSION—continued.

may be devested by a fine levied by a tenant for life, V. 236. barred by a recovery, 451—unless it be vested in the crown, 502.

a devise of a reversion is good, VI. 465—unless as against creditors, 10.

by what words a reversion passes in a devise, 220, See Devise.

effect of the word reversion in giving a fee simple in a devise, 252.

Reversioners-interest and power of,

not bound by the acts of tenants in tail, I. 41, 50. not bound by leases made by tenants in tail, IV. 119. may bring actions for injuries done to the inheritance, 11. 458.

how affected by fines at common law, V. 120.
when allowed five years from the accruing of their rights to claim against a fine, 176.
may make entries to avoid fines, 241.

REVOCATION.

a presentation to a living may be revoked, III. 16.
a use might have been revoked before the statute of uses,
I. 411.
of devises, See Devise.
Powers of Revocation, See Powers.

RIGHT

of action, See Action. of entry, See Entry. of possession, III. 368. of property, 369.

RULE IN SHELLEY'S CASE, IV. 470.

origin of, id.

the rule stated, 471.

applied in construing deeds,

mode in which mediate limitations are vested, 474.
joint and several limitations, 475.

both the estates must be created by the same instrument,

it is the same where the ancestor takes by implication, 480.

the rule not applied to the word son, &c. id.

nor

RULE IN SHELLEY'S CASE—continued.

applied in construing deeds—continued.

nor to the word beir in the singular number, IV. 481. nor where the estates are of different natures, id.

nor to cases of marriage articles, 482.

the rule adopted in assignments of terms for years, 488, unless there are superadded words, 489.

applied in construing surrenders of copyholds, V. 559.

applied in construing devises, VI. 323.

in devises of legal estates, 324—although the limitation to the heirs be only mediate, 326, and although the estate for life arise by implication, 330.

applied when the word beir is used in the singular num-

ber, 332.

and where there are words superadded to the word beirs, 333.

superadded words may sometimes control the word

heirs, and make it a word of purchase, 336.

applied to devises of trust estates, 336-where the court of chancery is called upon to direct a conveyance to be made under a will, the construction is different, 343, 369.

applied to devises of copyholds, 343. and to devifes of terms for years, 344. cases in which the rule does not apply,

where the limitation is to fond or children, id.

where explanatory words are added to the word beirs, 346, 397.

where words of limitation are added to the word keir in the singular number, 353, 397.

where the word beirs is controlled by subsequent words limiting an estate of a different nature, 353.

where the remainder is to the heir for life, 355, 397. where the word is used with words of limitation, 356.—unless the general intent require a different construction, 358.

where a trust is created and a conveyance directed, 369.

where the estate given to the ancestor differs in quality from that given to the heir, 378.

case of Perrin and Blake, 380.

remarks on the application of the rule, 399.

SAINTFOIN

\$.

SAINTFOIN titheable, III. 59.

SALE, power of,

by what words created in a devise, VI. 435.

why powers of fale and exchange are given in modern settles ments to trustees, IV. 381.

SCINTILLA JURIS,

which remains in a feoffee to uses after the use is executed

by the statute of uses, II. 347, 407.

which enables a tenant in tail, after levying a fine, to bar the remainders and reversion by a recovery, V. 429.

whether an attainted tenant in tall has such a scintilla juris as will enable him to suffer a recovery, 430.

SCOTLAND,

the lawfulness of marriages celebrated there may be tried by jury, I. 139.

SEALING,

necessary to the validity of a deed, IV. 27. whether sealing a will is a sufficient signing within the statute of frauds, VI. 50.

SECONDARY OR SHIFTING USES, II. 355, See Uses.

SEIGNIORY, I. 3. 293. III. 503.

SEISIN, I. 12.

defined by lord Mansfield in the case of Taylor v. Orde, V. 222.

seisin in deed and in law, I. 13.

seisin in law may be deseated by abatement, 14.

a wife must be seised to entitle her husband to curtely, 107.

and a husband to entitle his wife to dower, 140, 142. there can be no seisin of an estate for years, 246. in a conveyance to uses the grantor must be seised, 428. what kind of seisin may be had in a remainder or reversion,

III. 467. II. 457. how seisin may be had of an advowson, III. 7.

the

SEISIN—continucd.

the seisin of one joint tenant enures to all, II. 504, 517. III. 555.

of one coparcener enures to all, II. 539. III. 555.

of one tenant in common enures to all, II. 551. III. 410, 555.

how it may be had in a rent, III. 318.

what seisin of an ancestor will enable an heir to claim through him, 383, 408.

when seisin must be acquired by entry, 409, 412.

a ward may have seifin by the possession of its guardian, •I. 14. III. 411, 417.

seisin necessary to make a possession fratris, III. 383, 408.

in the case of a trust, 418.

in the case of a remainder or reversion, 465, 467.

in the case of a copyhold, 479.

in a bargain and fale the bargainor need not always be seised, IV. 176.

necessary to support a fine, V. 85. necessary in a testator, VI. 28.

SERVICES,

certain services not within the statutes of limitation, III. of which a recovery cannot be suffered, V. 382.

SETTLEMENTS,

history of, IV. 493.

modern mode of making settlements, 494.

SHERIFF OF A COUNTY—offices in his gift, III. 135.

SHIFTING USES, II. 355, See Remainder.

SIGNING,

whether effential to a deed, IV. 27.

of wills, VI. 49.

requisite to a revocation of a devise by declaration in writing, VI. 91.

SIMONY, III. 32, 34, See Advowson.

SIMPLE CONTRACT DEBTS, See Debts.

```
SOCAGE,
tenure, I. 11.
guardian in, See Guardian.
```

SONS.

a good description in a devise, VI. 187. effect of this word in creating an intail in a devise, 280. the rule in Shelley's case does not apply to this word in a devise, 346.

SPECIAL OCCUPANT, I. 91, See Occupancy.

SPECIAL TAIL, See Estate Tail.

SPECIALTY DEBTS, See Debts.

SPRINGING USES, II. 352, See Uses.

STAMPS OF DEEDS, IV. 26.

STAPLE, statute of the, See Estate by Statute Merchant, &c.

STATUTES,

Hen. I.

1. c. 70. power of alienation, IV. 4. charter of Hen. I. dower, I. 130, 160.

John,

magna charta, dower, I. 131. franchise, III. 297.c. 7. dower, I. 160.

Hen. III.

charter of Hen. III. dower, I. 131.

c. 16. franchises, III. 297.

c. 32. power of alienation, IV. 5.

20. stat. of Merton,

copyhold, I. 330. prescription, III. 539.

c. 1. dower, I. 156.

c. 2. idem, 168.

c. 4. common, III. 107.

52. stat. of Marlbridge,

estate for years, I. 256.

c. 14. estate for life, I. 69.

c. 39. writ of entry, II. 424.

, r 3

Edw. I

STATUTES-continued.

Edw. I.

3. stat. of Westminster the first,

c. 1. tolls, III. 288.

c. 4. wrecks, 281.

c. 39. prescription, 539.

c. 40. voucher, V. 434.

6. stat. of Gloucester,

c. 1. warranty, IV. 56.

c. 5. action of waste, I. 70, 124, 273, 256.

c. 7. dower, 157.

10. stat. of Rutland, dower, 129.

11. stat. of Acton Burnel, II. 63.

13. stat. merchant, 60, 74, See Estate by Statute Merchant, &c.

13. stat. of Westminster the second,

c. 1. de donis conditionalibus, I. 29, 30, 35, 41, 42, 49, 100, 117, 338, II. 41, 455. III. 8. 148, 223, 335. IV. 56, See Estate Tail.

c. 4. recovery, V. 458.

c. 5. advowson, III. 24.

c. 18. elegit, II. 65.

c. 20. executions, I. 338.

c. 22. joint tenants, II. 518.

c. 30. offices, III. 135.

c. 34. dower, I. 174.---Jointure, 223.

6. 34. devising new writs, 396.

c. 46. common, III. 107.

18. quia emptores.

tenure, I. 12.

dower, 156.

copyhold, 338.

rents, III. 308, 310.

alienation, IV. 6.

18. de modo levandi fines, V. 13, 64, 81, 123.

27. de finibus levatis, 125.

c. 1. proclamations on fines, 38.

34. de tallagio non imponendo, III. 134. of forests, 535.

Edw. II.

17. de prerogativa regis, III. 285.

c. 6. fines for alienation, IV. 7.

c. 15. king's grant, 568.

27. stat. 2. of the staple, II. 62, See Estate by Statute Merchant, &c.

Edw. III,

3

```
STATUTES—continued.
     Edw. III.
         1. c. 12. fines for alienation, IV. 7.
       14. amendment of original writs, V. 110.
       25. natural-born subjects, III. 375.
       34. c. 15. fines for alienation, IV. 8.
           c. 16. nonclaim, V. 126.
       45. c. 3. tithes, III. 59.
       50. uses, I. 415.
     Rich. II.
         1. c. 9 uses, I. 415.
        2. stat. 2. s. 3. id.
       15. c. 3. wrecks, III. 382.
     Hen. IV.
        4. c. 4. recovery, V. 501.
        5. c. 14. inrollment of fines, 31.
     Hen. V.
         1. c. 3. forging false deeds, III. 490.
           c. 7. of priors aliens, IV. 519.
         3. dower, 1. 145.
     Hen. VI.
        8. c. 12. amendment of original writs, V. 411, 110.
       11. c. 5. waste, I. 257.
       15. c. 4. subpæna, 399.
        23. c. 9. bailbonds, IV. 512.
     Edw. IV.
        22. c. 7. inclosure, IV. 519.
     Rich. III.
         1. c. 1. uses, I. 410, 415.
            c. 5. id. V. 500.
            c. 7. fines, 129.
     Hen. VII.
         1. uses, I. 415.
         4. c. 17. id. 416.
          : c. 24. fines, 55. Il, 439. V. 28, 58, 130, 252, 455.
           ____ f. 2. fines, V. 130, 137.
         7. c. 3. soldiers wills, VI. 5.
        11. c. 20. recovery, I. 56, 102, 157, 209. IV. 62.
               V. 399. 503, 97.
        19. c. 15. uses, I. 416.
     Hen. VIII.
         4. c. 4. recovery, V. 372.
        14 & 15. c. 14. soldiers wills, VI. 5.
        21. estate for years, I. 245.
           c. 13. pluralities, IV. 511.
           c. 15. estate by statute merchant, &c. V. 503, 514.
```

26. dig-

```
STATUTES—continued.
    Hen. VIII. - continued.
       26. dignities, 111. 238.
           c. f3. forseiture, I 52. III. 477.
       27.
          c. 10. ufes, I. 214, 248, 336, 338, 419, 458, 477,
                   489. II. 345, 407. III. 317. 341, 404.
                   V. 47. VI. 5.
              — f. 6. jointure, I. 197. 226.
           c. 15. statute merchant, &c. II. 73.
           c. 16. inrollment, IV. 179.
       28. c. 11. f. 6. emblements, I. 88.
       31.
           tithes, III. 75.
           c. 1. partition, II. 529, 544, 5622
           c. 10. precedency, III. 214.
       32.
          c. t. wills, VI. 5, 7, 14, 26.
           —— s. 15. recovery, V. 276.
           c. 5. statute merchant, &c. II. 74.
           c. 28. leases by tenants in tail, I. 50. II. 493.
                   IV. 119, 120.
           fine, V. 97, 154, 178, 408.
           ---- estate tail, 155.
          c. 30. recovery, 356.
          c. 31. id. 398.
           c. 32. of repose, III. 539.
           partitions, II. 529, 544, 562.
          c. 33. remainder, 327.
          c. 34. covenants, IV. 72.
           —— conditions, II. 7, 52.
          c. 36. fine, V. 400, 499.
           -- f. 1. id. 132, 137, 148, 455.
           --- f. 2. dower, jointure, I. 157, 209.
           —— f. 4. fine, V. 218.
       33.
          forfeiture, II. 323.
          c. 20. trusts, I. 501.
          c. 23. trials for murder, II. 479.
          c. 39. s. 75.—estate tail, I. 48.
      34 & 35:
          c. 5. wills, VI. 6, 14, 17, 26.
          c. 20. fine, V. 218.
           ____ f. 2. recovery, 490.
```

```
STATUTES—continued.
    Hen. VIII.—continued.
       34 & 35 - continued.
         c. 26. s. 6. reçoveries in Chester, V. 380.
         ___ f. 40. fines in Wales, 62.
             recoveries in Wales, 379.
         ___ f. 113. fines in Wales, 222.
       35. conveyances by or to queen Catherine, IV. 512.
    Edw. VI.
       1. c. 12. dower, I. 173.
       2 & 3. c. 13. tithes, III. 65.
       ----- c. 28. fine, V. 59.
       3 & 4. c. 3. common, III. 109.
       5 & 6. c. 15 & 16. buying offices, 160,
       ----- c. 11. dower, I. 17.
    Mary,
       1. c. 4. advowsons, III. 561.
          c. 7. f. 2. proclamations on fines, V. 38,
    Elizabeth,
       1. c. 19. s. disabling statute, V. 97.
       5. c. 26. inrollment, IV. 180.
       13. c. 5. fraudulent conveyances, II. 466, IV. 372.
           c. 7. idem, II. 466.
           c. 10. disabling statute, V. 97, 244, III. 91, IV.
                   511.
           c. 11. idem, IV. 123.
       14. c. 8. recovery, V. 398, 431.
       18. c. d. colleges, IV. 511.
           c. 11. colleges, deans, &c. id.
           c. 14. recovery, V. 356.
       23. c. 3. fines, 62.
       f. 2. idem, 229, 379.
        f. 1. recovery, 376.
        I. 1, 6. fine, 31, 41.
        f. 5. fine and recovery, 25, 35, 346.
              — s. 10. idem, 118, 419.
       27. C. 4.
         fraudulent fines, 244.
         consideration in a deed, IV. 25.
         avoidance of deeds, 372.
         c. 9. fines, V. 62, 118, 419.
       31. c. 2. idem, 39.
       43. c. 4. charitable uses, I. 57, VI. 18.
       43. c. 15. s. 3, 6. fines in Chester, V. 60, 222.
                - L 4, 5. Recoveries in Cheker, 380.
                                                       James
```

STATUTES—continued. James I. 3. c. 5. advowsons, III. 32. 21. c. 2. limitations against the crown, 558. c. 16. fines, V. 128. --- repose, III. 539. c. 19. bankrupts, I. 50, II. 466. c. 26. fines, V. 41. Charles I. 3. for fettling the manor of Arundel, IV. 507. Charles II. 12. c. 24. abolition of military tenures, I. 11. IV. 9, 129, VI. 14. f. 7. I. 294, 297. ----- f. 11. III. 192. 16. c. 16. f. 10. writ of covenant, V. 348. 16 & 17. c. 8. f. 3. dower, I. 170. 17. c. 8. recovery, V. 358. 18 stat. 2. st. 1. qualifications for offices, III. 158. 25. test act, id. 29. c. 3. of frauds, I. 92, 204, 471, 503, II. 63, 71, 197, 472, III. 344, 337, IV. 149, 171, VI. 47, 50, 68, 79. ----- f. 7. IV. 208. ---- f. 12. VI. 20. 30. c. 7. action of waste, II. 434, 435. 31. c. 3. on the burning of the chirographer's office, V. 31, William and Mary, 1. feff. 1. c. 26. advowsons, III. 32. 1. c. 16. simony, 33. 3. c. 14. fraudulent devises, II. 462, IV. 169, VI. 19. 3 & 4. c. 14. reversion, II. 492. 4 & 5. c. 16. fraudulent mortgages, 163. ---- c. 24. s. 12, action of waste, 434. William III. 7. c. 25. f. 7. trufts, I. 493. 8 & 9. c. 11. f. 6. recovery, V. 358. ---- c. 18. partition, II. 544: ——— c. 31. idem, 531. 10 & 11, c. 4. recovery, V. 510. ------ c. 14. fine, 229: e. 16. remainder, II. 336, VI. 537. titles

STATUTES—continued. William III.—continued. 11 & 12. c, 6. titles derived through aliens, III. 377. 12. c. 13. grants of crown lands, IV. 565. 13. c, 2. offices, III. 143. Anne, 1 st. 1. c. 7 & 5. alienation of crown lands, IV. 565. V. 496. 1. c. 8. f. 5. abatement of writs, V. 16. 2. for making the estates of Irish Roman Catholics defcend in gavelkind, II. 54. 2 & 3. c. 4. s. register act, IV. 343. 3 & 4. c 18. s. 2. partition, II. 531. 4. c. 16. s. 15. declaration of uses, IV. 209. ------ f. 16. entry to support a right, III.551. ——— to avoid a fine, V. 241. ------ f. 21. warranty, IV. 62. 4 & 5. c. 16. warranty, V. 149, 217. attornment after a fine, 47. --- f. 17. joint-tenancy, II. 503. 5. c. 3. for settling Woodstock, IV. 57. c. 18. inrollment, 180. --- f. 4. register act, 343. 6. c. 31. accidental fire, I. 79, 124, 157. c. 35. s. 16, 30. inrollment, IV. 180. ___ f. 19. registering, 343. 7. c. 5. natural-born subjects, III. 375. c. 18. advowsons, 25, 561. c. 19. infant trustees, IV. 19. recoveries by infants, V. 397. c. 20. register act, IV. 343. 9. c. 5. mortgage, II. 124. 10. c. 18. f. 3. inrollment, IV. 181, 12. p. 2. c. 12. amony, III. 41. 12. stat. 2. c. 16. usurious deeds, IV. 369, 371. George I. 3. c. 15. fine, V. 22. 8. c. 25. infollment of statutes and recognizances, II. 63, 74. 9. c. 29. copyholds, I. 357, 376. 12. c. 32. private bills, IV. 556. George II. 4. c. 21. natural-born subjects, III. 375. c. 28. s. ejectment, 333. renewal

STATUTES - continued. George II.—continued. 4. c. 28. f. 6. renewal of leases, IV. 129. - 1.8. tenancy at sufferance, I. 284. 8. c 6. registering deeds, IV. 181, 343. 9. c. 6. charitable uses, IV. 23, VI. 18. c. 36. idem, VI. 149. 11. c. 19. s. 15. apportionment of rents, III. 362. f. 18. estate at will, I. 288. 12. c. 24. private bills, IV. 556. 13. c. 21. natural-born subjects, III. 376. 14. e. 20. occupancy, I. 92. ---- recovery, V. 288, 289, 296, 333. 25. c. 39. titles through aliens, III. 377. 29. c. 36. s. 1. inclosure, 113. 31. c. 14. copyhold, I. 337. c. 41. inclosure, III. 114. 32. c. 14. fine, V. 21. George III. 4. c. 16. conveyances by infants, V. 93. 5. c. 17. leases of incorporeal hereditaments, IV. 125. 9. c. 16. limitations against the crown, III. 558. 13. c. 23. offices, 143. c. 81, f. 15, 16, 17, 18, common, 99, 114. 14. c. 20. rents, 344. c. 79. interest of money in Ireland and the plantations, IV. 371. 17. c. 26. usurious deeds, 369, 371. ____ f. 6. contracts with infants for annuities, 16. 24. c. 48. f. 8. recovery, V. 348. 25. c. 35. extent by the crown, II. 80, 29. c. 93. corruption of blood, III. 240. 34. c. 75. grants of crown lands, IV. 565, 566. 39, 40. c. 88. grants of the king's private property, 566. --- f. 12, trust and escheat, I. 550, III. 408. - c. 98. perpetuities, VI. 568. STEWARD OF A MANOR,

may grant copyholds, I. 316. and take furrenders, V. 535. may be appointed by word, except the king's steward, 1. 316.

STUBBLE, not titheable, III. 57.

SUBPŒNA

SUBPŒNA IN CHANCERY, I. 396, 405, 489.
- a lord of a manor may be compelled to admit his copyholder by subpæna, V. 545.

SUFFERANCE, See Estate at Sufferance.

SUIT OF COURT,

is incident to copyhold tenures, I. 324. withdrawing it, is punishable by fine, 367.

SUMMONS TO PARLIAMENT, Writ of, III. 175, 193.

SURRENDER,

described, IV. 155.
good without technical words, or livery of seisin, 156.
must be in writing, id.

need not be by deed, 157.

what estates may be surrendered, id. 159.

there must be a privity between the surrenderor and the surrenderee, 160.

of an estate for years, where it will occasion merger, I. 265.

of a copyhold to the use of the lord, produces an extinguishment, 385.

of a lease to one joint-tenant enures to all, II. 517.

a franchise may be furrendered, III. 302.

a dignity cannot be surrendered, 232.

fine upon surrender, V. 50.

furrender and admittance of copyholders, 533, See Alienation by Custom.

furrender to make a tenant to the pracipe, See Recovery.

T.

TENANCY IN COMMON,

described, IL 549. how created, 550, IV. 455. incidents to this estate, II. 551. a perception of profits by one ter

a perception of profits by one tenant does not amount to an expulsion of another, 552. subject to curtesy, 560, I. 120.

and to dower, II. 561, I. 150. Dissolvable by partition, partition at law, II. 561.

partition

TENANCY IN COMMON—continued.

Dissolvable by partition—continued. partition in equity, II. 563. how partition is made of an advowson, III. 25. nature of a deed of partition, IV. 143. a partition does not revoke a devise, VI. 123. may be held by prescription, III. 526. by what words created in a deed, IV. 455. by what words in a devise, VI. 408. two persons may be made joint tenants for their siges, and tenants in common of the inheritance, 413. Interest and power of the tenants, they have a reciprecal action of waste, H. 551. the possession and seism of one is the possession and seism of all, II. 551, III. 410, 555, V. 217. one cannot be diffeiled by the other, except by an actual or presumable ouster, II. 552, or by fine, V. 217. what acts will devest the possession of a tenant in common, II. 551. in the case of an advowson all must present, III. 25. they may make leafes jointly or feverally, IV. 118. they may levy fines, V. 84. the entry of one to avoid a fine enures to all, 241.

TENANT TO THE PRÆCIPE, See Recovery.

TENEMENT,

meaning of the word, I. 2. what passes in a deed by this word, IV. 41. this word not a sufficient description in a fine, V. 107.

TENENDUM OF A DEED, IV. 47.

TENURE,

free tenure, and tenure in villenage, I. 8. socage tenure, 11. tenure by grand serjeanty, III. 133. tenure per baroniam, 177. dignities by tenure, 185. advowsons lie in tenure, 500. nothing which does not lie in tenure can escheat, 499.

TERM, how considered in law, V. 43, 352.

TERM FOR YEARS, See Estate for Years and Trusts.

TEST

TEST ACT, III. 158.

TESTAMENT, distinguished from a devise, VI. 7.

TESTATOR,

must in general be seised of the lands devised at the time of the devise, VI. 28. must die seised of the lands devised, 29.

TIMBER,

may be cut by a tenant in tail, I. 37—but not by a tenant for life, 63.

what trees are confidered timber, 65, III. 60.

belongs to the person entitled to the inheritance, I. 73.

when and for whose benefit timber in a state of decay may be cut down, 74, 76.

timber growing on a copyhold belongs to the lord, 325.

in what cases a copyholder may cut timber, 326.

trustees to preserve contingent remainders are bound to take care of timber, II. 402.

not titheable, III. 59.

TITHES,

origin and nature of, III. 52.

predial, personal, or mixed tithe, 54, 55.

agistment tithes, 54.

great and small tithes, 55, 62.

due by common right or custom, 56.

when and of what things payable, id.

For what things predial tithes are due,

corn, 57.

fometimes the rakings of corn, id. but not stubble, id.

every species of grain, 58.
not clover, vetches, or grass cut green, and given to cate
the employed in husbandry, 59.

hay, 58.

clover, saint-soin, and rie-grass considered as hay, 59.]
Q. aftermath, id.

underwood, id.

trees not used as timber, 60.

fruit trees, id.

but not lops or tops of timber trees, 62.

agistment, id. 54, 64.

hemp

TITHES—continued, For what things predial tithes are due—continued. hemp, flax, hops, turnips, III. 63. garden herbs and fruit trees, but not hot-house plants, 64. for what things mixed tithes are due, the young of cattle, III. 64. wool, milk, and cheese, 65. for what things personal tithes are due, 65. to whom tithes are due, 67. of a portion of tithes, id.—long possession gives a title to a portion, 71, 83. distinction between a prescription de non decimando, and a ciaim to a portion of tithes, 84. rectorial and vicarial tithes, 67. extra parochial lands pay tithe to the king, 69. Lay impropriations, id. are temporal inheritances, 70. are affets, id. are liable to dower and curtefy, id. may be held in fee, in tail, for life, or years, id. may be aliened, charged, and barred, and are within the statute of uses, id. may be granted by copy of court roll, I. 307. descend to the whole blood, III. 418. what seisin makes a possession fratris, id. of borough English lands, go to the heir at common law, 476. are not within the statutes of limitation, 561. pass by bargain and sale, IV. 177. fines may be levied of them, V. 100. by what words they pass in fines, 103. recoveries may be suffered of them, 381. are devisable, VI. 22. Exemptions from tithes, a prescription de non decimando, III. 73. in what eases good, 74. may be annexed to lands in the possession of lay pernot good against the church without showing the ground of exemption, 77. Q. whether good against lay impropriators without

a modus decimandi, 89. a real composition, 90.

showing a ground of exemption, id.

9

TITHES—continued.

Exemptions from tithes—continued.

no real composition can be good unless made before the

13th Elizabeth, III. 91.

what orders were exempt from paying tithes, 75.

TITLE DEEDS,

are heir looms, I. 6.

a tenant in tail has a right to them, 40.

a jointress not bound to deliver them up, 240.

detinue of, is a bar of dower, 178.

where possession of title deeds will give priority to a mortgagee, II. 201.

the custody of the title deeds of a term for years, is equivalent to an assignment, 231.

clause respecting title deeds, IV. 45.

in what cases a grantor may keep them, id.

covenants for producing them, 85.

Q. whether they belong to a release to uses, or to the cestuique use, 203.

TOLL, Right of taking it usually annexed to fairs or markets, III. 288.

TOWNS CORPORATE, Courts of, fines may be levied in them, V. 65.

TREASURE TROVE, III. 284.

TREASON, Attainder for, See Attainder.

TRESPASS, Action of,

may be maintained,

by a leffee against a leffor for cutting trees, I. 64. by a landlord against the grantee of a tenant at will,

by a lessor against a tenant at will for waste, 272.

by a copyholder against his lord for ouster, 297, 310.

cannot be maintained by a tenant for years before entry, 248.

TROVER, Action of,

may be maintained by a tenant in tail in remainder against a tenant for life, for timber felled, I. 74, II. 422.

TRUSTS,

origin and description of, I. 458.

How

TRUSTS—continued.

How created, I. 459.

a use limited upon a use, id.

a limitation to trustees to pay over the rents and profits to a third person, 461.

distinction between a limitation to trustees to pay over to and a limitation to truttees, to permit and suffer a third person to receive the rents and profits, 462.

a limitation requiring a feifin in the trustees, id.

a limitation in trust for the separate use of a married woman, 465.

a limitation in trust to sell or to raise money, 467.

a limitation of a term for years in trust, 470. a trust for payment of debts vests immediately, 469. Resulting and implied trusts, 471.

a contract for a purchase, id.

a purchase in the name of a stranger, id.

a purchase by a trustee with trust money, 472.

a conveyance to a stranger without consideration, 474.

a trust declared in part, 475—exception, 476,

where no appointment is made, 477.

purchase by a father in the name of his child, id.—exception, 482.

purchase by a father in his own name and that of his child, 480.

no trust results upon a purchase in the name of a wise,

a renewal of a leafe by a trustee, id.—by a mortgagee, II. 121.

a trust cannot result between a lessor and a lessce, I. 485.

a trust results where there is fraud, id.

Trusts of copyholds,

not subject to freebench, I. 330.

nor to dower, 499.

a trustee to sell'need not be admitted, 345. are devisable without surrender, VI. 41.

intails of, barred by will, 42.

devises of, not within the statute of frauds, id.

a trust when properly created attaches to the estate, I. 488.

all trusts are executory, 489.

a trust is equivalent to the legal ownership, 490. truss considered as land in equity, 492. confidence in the trustee necessary, id.

but not privity of estate, id.

TRUSTS—continued.

who are bound to execute a trust, I. 492—Q. as to a lord by escheat? III. 497.

are alienable, I. 493.

descend like legal estates, 493, III. 399, 418.

are devisable, VI. 20.

may be intailed within the statute de donis, I. 34. 493.

may be limited for life, 494.

technical words are necessary in limitations of trusts, 493.

subject to curtesy, 120, 491—exception, 495.

but not to dower, 155, 496, 499.

a trust is a good equitable jointure, 202.

sorfeitable for treason, 500, 550.

• but not for felony, 501.

a trust escheats on the death of a trustee without heirs, 550—but not on the death of a cestuique trust, 502, III. 500.

are assets, I. 502.

may be extended by elegit, II. 71.

and taken in execution, I. 503.

are legal and not equitable assets, id.

are not liable to the incumbrances of a trustee, 541.

merge in the legal estate, id.

how far a trust may be prejudiced by the trustee, id.

In what cases a purchaser of a trust estate must see to the application of his money, 542.

in what sense said not to be within the statute of limitations,

III. 565. an equity of redemption similar to a trust, II. 126.

notice of a trust will make a purchaser a trustee, I. 486,

541, II. 211.

may be conveyed by bargain and sale, IV. 177. intails of trusts may be barred by fine, V. 159. effect of a fine levied by a cestuique trust, 161.

are-within the stat. 11 Hen. 7. for preventing jointresses

from levying fines, or suffering recoveries, 402

may be barred by recovery, 459.

a recovery of a trust will not affect a legal estate, 450.

may be devised, VI. 20

devises of trusts are within the statute of frauds, 72.

where in a devise words of advice or desire will raise a trust in equity, 176.

by what and when by general words the cstate of a trustee will pass in a devise, 229, 233.

rule in Shelley's case applied to devises of trusts, 336.

M. 2 declarations

TRUSTS—continued.

declarations of trust, See Declarations. trusts of accumulation, See Accumulation. Trust terms,

where a trust term will be a bar in ejectment, L. 505, 536, III. 533.

are subject to survivorship if held in joint-tenancy, Il. 504.

Terms in gross, I. 505, 312. are not assets, 506.

by what rules governed, id.

Terms attendant, id.

by what rules governed, id. I. 515.
how a term becomes attendant, 509.
distinguished from terms in gross, 512.
may become terms in gross, 515, II. 225.
are real assets in the hands of the heir, I. 515.

do not pass by a will unless duly executed, 516, VI. 73.

will be removed in favour of jointresses, I. 221.

will protect a purchaser from dower if assigned to a trustee for him, 516, 534—but not an heir at law, 531—nor the assignee of a bankrupt, 533.

are not a bar to curtely, 536.

how far a declaration of trust of a term is equivalent to an assignment, II. 231.

will protect and give priority to a puisse mortgagee, 216.

where a term attendant will enable a puisse mortgagee to maintain an ejectment, 229, 233.

a lord by escheat entitled to a term attendant, III. 498. not barred by fine, V. 164.

Interest and power of trustees,

who may be a trustee, I. 488.

when a trustee is bound to reconvey, 540.

estate of trustees, 539.

infant trustees may convey, 540, IV. 19.

no act of a trustee shall prejudice the trust, I.541, V. 249—exceptions, I. 541.

a trustee cannot incumber, id.

power of a trustee to sell for payment of debts, as to the quantity to be sold, 548.

clause to enable a trustee to sell, to give a proper discharge, id.

* trustee forseits his estate by attainder, 550.

TRUSTS -- continued.

Interest and power of trustees—continued.

on the death of a trustee without heirs, the trust escheats, I. 550.—Q. whether the lord by escheat is bound to execute the trust, III. 497.

trustees have equal power, I. 550.

are usually made accountable only for what each receives,

cannot derive any benefit from the trust, id.

clause for trustee's indemnity, id.

where a trustee will be allowed to purchase the trust estate, id.

are bound to reimburse the cestuique trust, 554.

where a trustee conceals a breach of trust of a co-trustee, he becomes liable to it, id.

not allowed any recompence for trouble, 556.

allowed their full costs, 557.

where a trustee refuses to accept a trust, he must release, id.

trustees may be discharged, and others appointed by the court of chancery, id.

are but as simple contract creditors to the cestuique trust,

distinction between the purchase of an incumbrance by a trustee and by a stranger, II. 213.

trustees of Roman Catholics cannot present to livings, III. 32.

not bound to enter into any covenants, except that they have done no act to incumber, IV. 92.

a fine levied by a trustee is void, as against the cestuique trust, V. 248.

2 change of trustees is not a revocation of a devise, VI. 122.

by what words the estate of a trustee will pass in a devise, 229, 233.

Interest and powers of a cestuique trust,

is seised in considertion of equity, I. 492.

a cestuique trust in possession may vote at elections, id. what acts amount to a forfeiture, 500.

a cestuique trust for life does not sorseit his estate by levying a fine, I. 494, V. 205.

in the case of an advowson, he may nominate, III. 4.

when entitled to a conveyance, I. 488, 540.

a cestuique trust in tail may call for a conveyance, and then suffer a recovery, id.

hew

TRUSTS—continued.

Interest and powers of a cestuique trust—continued.

how far he may be prejudiced by a trustee, I. 541,

V. 248.

trustees bound to reimburse him, I. 554. is but as a simple contract creditor, 555. he cannot destroy contingent remainders, II. 362. how far he may bar his estate by fine, V. 161. how affected by a sine levied by a stranger, 159.

may make a good tenant to the præcipe to suffer an equitable recovery, 302.

may suffer an equitable recovery without his trustees joining, 459.

TURBARY, Common of, III. 101.

TURNIPS, titheable, III. 63.

U.

VETCHES, when titheable, III. 59.

VICARS,

how restrained from waste, I. 79.
may be barred during their own lives by fine and nonclaim,
V. 188, 210.

VILLENAGE,

tenure in, I. 8.
pure villenage, 293.
villein socage, 295.
villeins, regardant and in gross, 244.

VISCOUNT, origin of this title, III. 184.

UNBORN PERSONS,

may have estates for life limited to them, IV. 504. no estate can be limited to their issue, 505.

UNCERTAINTY,

will make a deed void, IV. 425.

what kind of uncertainty will make a remainder contingent, II. 269.

a devise may be void for uncertainty, VI. 155—but an uncertain person may be a devisee, 17.

UNDER-

UNDERTENANTS, not liable to the covenants of their leffer, IV. 70.

UNDERWOOD,

may be cut by a tenant for life, I. 64.

may be granted by copy of court roll, 307, is titheable, III. 59.

VOLUNTARY CONVEYANCES,

are prima facie fraudulent as against purchasers, I. 221. when fraudulent under the statutes 13 & 27 Elizabeth, IV. 375, 384.

VOUCHER, See Recovery.

USES,

origin of, I. 391. manner in which they were created, 392. became general in the reign of Edward III. id. taken from the civil law, 393. jurisdiction assumed by equity, 395. invention of the writ of fubpæna, 396. Nature of uses previous to stat. 27 Hen. 8. 401. estate of the feosfee, 403. confidence and privity necessary, id. who could be compelled to execute a use, I. 404, III. 497. who might be feifed to a use, I. 407. what might be conveyed to uses, 408. by what rules uses were governed, id. a consideration was necessary, 409. might be limited to persons, not parties, id. were alienable, id. technical words of limitation unnecessary, 410. might change by matter subsequent, id. were revocable, 411. were not objects of tenure, id. not forfeitable for treason or felony, id. were not liable to reliefs, wardships, or marriages, 412. did not escheat, id. III. 500. were not liable to dower or curtesy, I. 412, 155. could not be extended, 413, 502. were devisable and descendible, 413. inconveniencies of uses, 414. Ratutes made to remedy them, 415.

USES—continued.

Statute 27 Hen. 8. c. 10. of uses, history of the statute, I. 417. the statute stated, 419. object of the statute, 421.

Circumstances necessary to its operation,

1st. a feoffee to uses, 422.

who may be seised to a use, id.

of what estate a person may be seised to a use, 424. an estate tail, 427.

an estate for life, id.

a legal estate of freehold, 428.

a remainder, II. 345.

What kind of property may be conveyed to uses, corporeal and incorporeal hereditaments, I. 428. tithes imprepriate, III. 71.

Q. as to offices, 151.

rents, 317.

not copyholds, I. 369, 429.

the perion conveying must be seised, 428.

the fcosses supposed to have a fcintilla juris, in the case of contingent uses, II. 347, 407.

Q. whether the feoffee or the cestuique use have a right to the title deeds, IV. 203.

2dly, a cestuique use in esse, I. 429.

who may be one, id.

what estate he may have, id.

acquires an actual seisin, 433.

Q. whether he has a right to the title deeds, 203.

3dly, a use in esse, in possession, remainder, or revertion, I. 432.

effects of the statute, id.

clause for saving all former estates, 433.

construction of the statute, 435.

words of limitation made necessary in conveyances to uses, 436.

right of entry by operation of the statute, III. 332. terms for years saved from merger, I. 266, V. 303.

Conveyances derived from the statute, a bargain and sale, I. 441, IV. 172.

a covenant to stand seised, I. 441, IV. 185.

declarations of uses, I. 442, IV 205, See Declarations. what conveyances are said to operate with or without transmutation of possession, I. 440, 441.

whether

USES—continued.

whether a devise can operate by the statute, I. 442.

Contingent uses, 1 346, II. 35 t

must arise from the estate of the seosses, II. 356. how construed, 359.

upon what contingency a use may be limited, IV. 469.

Springing and shifting uses, II. 352, 355, 359.

feisin out of which the use arises, 35%.

consingency on which springing uses may be limited,

IV. 496.

whether they can be limited in surrenders of copyholds, V. 565.

How destroyed,

by devesting the seisin of the seoffees, II. 374.

by a devise of the land, 376.

but not by a devise of portions out of land, id.

nor by a lease for years, id.

nor by a grant of a rent charge, id.

nor by a fine, V. 219.

Uses arising out of the execution of powers, I. 437—must be such as would have been good in the original deed, IV. 497.

Resulting uses, I. 442.

no use results in the case of a lease and release, and no declaration, I. 445-Q. IV. 202.

no use can result inconsistent with the estate limited,

I. 447—or against the intent of the parties, 448 a use cannot result to any one but the owner, 450.

what use results to a tenant in tail on suffering a recovery, 451.

no use results upon a grant of an estate tail, for life, or for years, 454.

no use results on a devise, 456.

when rebutted by parol evidence, IV. 210.

decds to lead uses, 212.

decus to declare uses, 219.

USURY,

usurious deeds are void, IV. 370.

a fine may be avoided by averment of usury, V. 244

W.

WAIFS, III 279.

WAIVER of Notice to quit, a distress for rent is a waiver, I. 282, but not an acceptance of rent, 274.

WALES,

WALES, Court of Great Sessions of, since may be levied in it, V. 62. justices of, may take acknowledgements of sinces, 77. how since levied there may be reversed, 222. recoveries may be suffered there, 379.

WARRANT OF ATTORNEY, to acknowledge a judgement, II. 66. to suffer a recovery, V. 341, See Recovery.

WARRANTY in a Deed, See Deed.

a warranty is implied in an exchange, IV. 140.

and in a partition, 143.

estate necessary to support a warranty, 50.

an intail may be barred by warranty, I. 53.

implied in an assignment of dower, 167.

all sines have an express warranty annexed, V. 25.

estect of a sine with warranty in barring an estate tail, 149.

estect of a collateral warranty in a sine, id.

WARREN, Beafts and Fowls of, III. 295.

WASTE,

is either voluntary or permissive, I. 63.

what is voluntary waste,

felling timber, id.

pulling down houses, 66.

opening pits or mines, id.

changing the course of husbandry, 67.

destroying heir looms, 68.

in what permissive waste consists, id.

waste by act of God is excusable, id.

Action of waste, 69.

what shall be recovered, 70.

barred at law by a recovery, II. 431.
dies with the person, 433.
against whom an action of waste lies,
a tenant for life, I. 69.

who may bring an action of waste against a tenant for life, 70.

a tenant for years, 72, 256.
lies between joint tenants, II. 518.
and tenants in common, 551.
not against a tenant at will, I. 272.
cannot be brought by trustees to preserve contingent remainders, II. 411.

Action

WASTE—continued.

Action on the case in the nature of waste, I. 71.

preserable to an action of waste, id.

by whom it may be brought, id. the plaintiff entitled to costs, id.

Injunction to stay waste,

granted in favour of trustees to preserve contingent remainders, II. 413.

and of an infant in ventre matris, 414.

granted in the case of an intermediate remainder for life, II. 426.

Clause without impeachment of waste, I. 80.

how it affects a tenant for life, id.

does not extend to malicious waste, id.

is annexed to the privity of estate, 85,

how it affects a tenant for years, 258.

Partial powers of committing waste, 85.

who may commit waste,

a tenant in tail, 37.

a tenant in tail after possibility, 100.

a jointress to supply a deficiency, 224:

a tenant by statute merchant, &c. but he must account, II. 73.

a mortgagee in possession—in what cases? 120.

who are disabled from committing waste.

tenants for life, I. 63.

corporations sole, 78.

tenants by curtely, 124.

and in dower, 157.

a tenant at will, 272—is notwithstanding dispunishable, id.

copyholders, 325-6.

a mortgagor in possession, II. 108.

a court of equity,

will distrain a tenant for life—in what cases? I. 72.

will restrain the committing of malicious waste, 80, 101. will not restrain a copyholder from committing waste, 326. will, in the case of an executory devise, prevent the tenant in possession from committing waste, VI. 524.

a bond from a donee in tail not to commit waste held void, II 10.

waste committed by one joint tenant will make all liable,

a joint tenant may have an action by writ of waste against his companion, 518.

WASTES

INBEK

WASTES AND BARREN LANDS—when improved are not titheable for seven years, III. 66.

WAYS,

nature of a right of way, III. 121.

could not before the stat. 27 Hen. VIII. be conveyed to uses, I. 408.

how a right of way may be claimed,

prescription, III. 123.

grant, id.

20 years possession, 124.

operation of law, id.

how a right of way may be used, 125.

who are bound to repair a way, 129.

a right of way may be extinguished by unity of possession, id. Q. Whether it may be revived, 130.

a right of wreck includes a right of way, 282.

a right of way in ese will pass by bargain and sale, IV. 177.

cannot be barred by fine, V. 213.

WELSH MORTGAGES, II. 158. not liable to foreclosure, 252.

WIDOW,

continuing in possession is considered as guardian in socage to the heir, I. 14.

entitled to quarantine, 160.

of a copyholder, entitled to freebench, L 328, See Free-bench.

as to her right of dower, See Dower.

a condition that she shall not marry is good, II. 33.

WIFE is a good name of purchase, IV. 35.

WILL, See Devise.

WITNESSES,

of a deed, not presumed to be privy to its contents, II. 201.

attestation of a will by witnesses, VI. 52, See Devise. who may be witnesses to a will, 66.

WOAD titheable, III. 55.

WOMEN

WOMEN

attainted, are barred of dower, I. 173.

stolen, cannot claim dower, 146.

may hold certain offices, III. 153.

marriage is a revocation of a woman's will, VL 105.

WOOD, a great tithe, III. 55.

WOOL, titheable, III. 65.

WRECKS, III. 281, See Franchise.

WRIT

original, of a fine, V. 14.
of dedimus potestatem, 66.
of error, to reverse a fine, 221.
of false judgement, to reverse a fine, 229.
of deceit, to reverse a fine, id.
of deceit, to reverse a recovery, 573.
of entry, to suffer a recovery, 275.
de attornato faciendo, 341.
of summoneas ad warrantizandum, 346.
of error to reverse a recovery.

See Fine.

See Recovery.

WRITING

essential to a deed, IV. 25. and to a devise, VI. 48.

Y.

YEARS,

estate for, See Estate. mortgage for, See Mortgage. lease for, See Lease. bargain and sale for, See Bargain and Sale.

AND OF THE INDEX OF PRINCIPAL MATTERS.

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